Wednesday, November 25, 2009 A 12 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 258 P10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

EVERY WHICH WAY
Corpses lie sprawled on the grass on the outskirts of Ampatuan, Maguindanao, site of the Monday massacre of civilians and journalists by armed men believed to be followers of the Ampatuan political clan.

GMA dared: Get Ampatuans

46 bodies retrieved so far from mass graves

By TJ Burgonio and Inquirer Mindanao

AS BODIES FROM THE WORST political massacre in the nation's history were being uncovered from freshly dug mass graves, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared a state of emergency in the provinces of Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat and in Cotabato City.

Police said at least 46 bodies, 21 of them women, had so far been retrieved, a day after armed followers of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. seized rivals belonging to the family of Buluan Vice Mayor Ismael Mangudadatu on their way to file documents officially

46 BODIES/ A17

Maguindanao under state of emergency now

PRAYING TOGETHER In this July 21, 2008, file photo released by Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo with Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan and Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr. pray before the start of a Cabinet meeting at a military camp in Siargao, Cotabato City. AFP

SHOCKED AND OUTRAGED BY THE MONDAY massacre in Maguindanao, President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies yesterday called on her to swiftly go after a scion of the clan that helped her clinch victory in the 2004 presidential election.

Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., standard bearer of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD, said authorities should immediately arrest Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr. on the strength of the evidence supposedly pointing to him and his men.

"The government should [take] unequivocal and strong [steps] against the perpetrators. [Ampatuans] must be arrested because he has something to do with this. He must also face an impartial investigation," the resigned defense secretary said at a press conference.

Ampatuan should surrender to the police if he wants to clear his name, Teodoro said. He also said a delay in the government's response to the "indescribable" killings would be a cause of "serious [embarrassment]."

Dalwinder Rep. Antonio Albanese, the spokesperson of the ruling party, said any of its members found liable for the killings should be expelled at once.

The Ampatuans are party members. Only in June, Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), a son of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, was appointed interim regional chair of the party.

"If the party leadership, despite overwhelming evidence, will continue to keep them in the ranks for political expedien-

GMA DARED/ A11

'What kind of animals are these killers?'

By Alecsin Papa

COMMISSION ON HUMAN Rights (CHR) Chair Leila de Lima yesterday said the perpetrators of the mass murder in Maguindanao were "not human."

Saying she had been thinking with rage since Monday night, De Lima let loose a mouthful on the killings, the Ampatuan family, and the national government.

"What kind of animals are these killers?" she told reporters at her office. "We are so shocked and enraged. This is beyond words. It is most despicable. This is the work of someone who is not human. It is a bestial act of the highest order. I have never seen anything like it. It's brutal ruthlessness all in the name of power. It's an affront to all forms of civility."

De Lima recalled that in 2001, she served as Zacarias

WHAT KIND/ A17

Two spunky women lawyers among the dead

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

LAWYER Cuenca Brizuela

ONE WAS A PASSIONATE health advocate who refused to abandon her advocacy despite death threats. The other was a young, artistic mother who quietly fought for her beliefs.

The two female lawyers, who were reportedly slain in the massacre in Maguindanao on Monday, were among those who had kept hopes for peace and respect for hu-

TWO SPUNKY/ A18

Warring clans were political allies

THE AMPATUANS AND THE Mangudadatus were once political allies. In 2001, they even joined hands in toppling an incumbent governor from power.

All that changed on Monday with the massacre of more than 40 people, including members of the Mangudadatu clan, in a village of Maguindanao

WARRING/ A22

Killings leave media stunned

SHOCKED MEMBERS OF PHILIPPINE AND international media groups, and the European Union yesterday demanded answers from authorities after the unprecedented murders of at least 12 Filipino journalists who became ensnared in a feud between rival political clans.

The Philippines has long been recognized as one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists, but hardened reporters in the country were reduced to shock by the scale of the slaughter.

"I don't know how to term what the perpetrators did. It is of course a brazen, barbaric act," said Jay Sonza, the station manager for local television station UNTV, which has two

KILLINGS/ A6

Hotel incident made us skip media convoy at last minute

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

DAGUPAN CITY—IAN SUBANG, A LONGTIME friend and former colleague in the now-defunct German Media Cooperative, was in his usual jovial mood that Monday morning, poking fun and exchanging jokes with us.

Alejandro "Bong" Rebllando, Manila Bulletin reporter covering Bankaragan (South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City), was, as always, in his fighting mood—business and

HOTEL/ A6

EDITORIAL

Overlords

BY INSTINCT AND CONVICTION, PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is a believer in strong central authority and the paramount political status of the presidency. But out of necessity she has conceded unprecedented power to provincial warlords in the name of expediency and political survival to the extent that she can only be proven impotent in enforcing the writ of the national government in the coming days.

EDITORIAL/ A14

WHAT'S INSIDE

Jason Ivler placed on BI watchlist — **METRO**/ A25

Chiz quits race; 'Not my time' — **NEWS**/ A2

Lacson aide to wait longer on extradition — **NEWS**/ A7

Peso seen rallying to 43 to $1 in 2010 — **BUSINESS**/ B1

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

6/49	
2009 Nov 23	10
2009 Nov 1	23
2009 Nov 4	21
SUPER 6/55	
2009 Nov 5	9 6
2009 Nov 1	4 6
2009 Nov 7	1 3

SIX DIGIT	
2009 Nov 4	6 2 7 4 5
4-PLUS-ONE 4-DIGIT	
2009 Nov 1	8 11 18 35 36
	P7,005,177.00
SUPER LOTTO 6/49	
2009 Nov 4	29 30 35 38 41
	P16,000,000.00

Not his time: Chiz quits race

By Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING THAT THIS WAS NOT THE TIME TO pursue his dream of leading the country, Sen. Francis Escudero yesterday officially dropped out of the 2010 presidential race.

"It's not the time. It's not my time. It's not our time," Escudero said at a news conference at the Club Filipino yesterday.

To the dismay and sadness of friends and supporters who were expecting him to re-launch run for vice president on an independent, Escudero also said he will not be running for any position in the national elections next year.

"I have decided not to run for president in the upcoming elections.... I've also decided that even if I am not a candidate, I have a role to play as a Filipino and as ordinary voter at this time," he said.

But he is holding on to his dream of becoming president someday, he said.

Escudero said he owes to this "difficult" decision after days of reflecting and consulting people on the wide but essential plan in the coming elections.

"I've always said that for me, it's the presidency but not at all cost—not to the cost of losing my soul, not at the cost of losing myself, not at the cost to losing some sa by the system and the process and certainly not at the cost any losing able to do the things that I set out to do," he said to Filipinos.

He told reporters later that among the factors he considered were his lack of money to mount a presidential campaign and his friendship with presidential aspirant Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. (Escudero's story on Page A2&3)

There was a sentiment of disarray from the supporters present, among them the Fernando Poe Jr. Movement and Magdalo group of rebel soldier, when Escudero announced that he would not be running for vice president.

Supporters said staff, who had expected Escudero to run for vice president, were told of his decision just minutes before the 9 a.m. news conference.

The senator said that some people had asked him to just focus on a press statement about his decision instead of holding a news conference.

He said reporters have the courage to say these things to you because I am not embarrassed about what I have to say," he said.

Last month, Escudero stunned everyone when he announced that he was leaving the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), the party that would have launched his presidential bid.

He said at the time that there were four options open to him—to run for president, to run for vice president, to run as an independent, or not to run at all.

Asked rebuttals of the presidential candidates he would be inclined to support, he said he still had to make up his mind.

He denied receiving an offer to be Aquino's campaign manager from the Liberal Party.

Escudero admitted that his friendship with Aquino "weighed" in his decision. Aquino is godfather to Escudero's twins.

"If it means the times dictate that this is for (Aquino), it's not for a real friend to take that away from him. Let's just allow other people to do that but not me, a friend," he said.

Escudero said he met with Aquino recently but they did not talk about their political plans.

"If there was anything related to politics, it was that whenever decisions are made, we will remain friends," he said.

He was also asked to comment on recent statements from Sen. Loren Legarda, Nacionalista Party mate and presumptive running mate who is now teamed up with the Nacionalista Party's Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

Legarda said on Monday that she would have run for president if she had known that Escudero wanted to run for vice president. She also said Escudero left the NPC abruptly when they were supposed to meet up to the election.

Escudero said he made the decision to leave the party and that Legarda had nothing to do with it.

Ex-judge is BF replacement as MMDA chair

By Christine F. Fuguen

MALACAÑANG SYSTEMOFF AS-nounced the appointment of a former judge to replace presidential hopeful and resigned chair Bayani Fernando of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The new MMDA officer in charge is Oscar Inocencio, the undersecretary for political affairs in Metro Manila serving under the Office of the President, according to Press Secretary Cerge Remonde.

Remonde said Fernando tendered his resignation on Friday, ostensibly to push through with his presidential candidacy in the coming May election.

The resignation came after Remonde, an original member of the ruling party failed to clinch the presidential nomination of the resigned Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

Before joining Malacañang, Inocencio served as assistant city fiscal and later judge in Quezon City. He also became a board member of the Government Service Insurance System.

"PASASALAMAT NG MGA MINERO"

TO

HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO

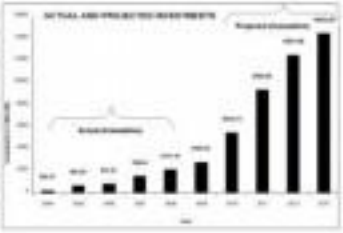
The "MINERO" Award was commissioned by the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) to honor individuals or organizations for their contribution to the advancement of the Philippine mining industry.

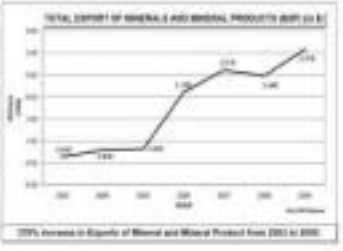
A special "Ang MINERO" trophy was specially primed in recognition of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's contribution to the development and revitalization of the Philippine mining industry since her "from tolerance to promotion" policy declaration in 2003 and for continuing to champion the mining industry to this time.

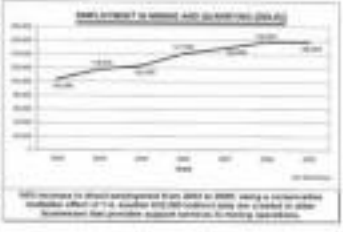
Over the last four decades, the Philippine mining industry has experienced its cyclical high and low. The 70s was considered as the boom years; the 80s was a period of dramatic changes in the local political landscape and in the global mining industry; and the 90s saw the enactment of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 that spurred investor interest before being stymied by an environmental accident.

The current decade can be remembered for the policy declaration "from tolerance to active promotion of mining operations" in 2003 by **Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.** The declaration started a 9-month, multistakeholder consultation process that led to the issuance of Executive Order (EO) No. 270, the National Policy Agenda on Revitalizing Mining in the Philippines, by President Arroyo. The EO was meant to "promote responsible mineral resources exploration, development and utilization in order to enhance economic growth, in a manner that adheres to the principles of sustainable development and with due regard for justice and equity, sensitivity to the culture of the Filipino people and respect for Philippine sovereignty."

The EO provided the impetus for foreign and local miners to take a second look. Since 2004, the Revitalization Program has generated, as of the first semester 2009, over US$2.4 billion in investments to the mining sector with total investments up to 2013 conservatively estimated at US$14.5 billion.

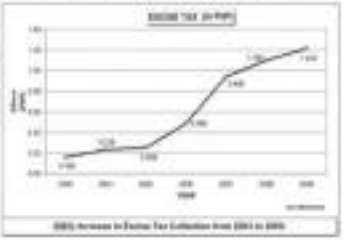






The President also issued Executive Order Nos. 469 on October 11, 2005 creating the Minerals Development Council (MDC), a coordinating body composed of concerned government agencies, the private sector and LGU leagues, in order to harmonize requirements and procedures that would facilitate investment inflows and resolve mining-related issues at the national and regional levels.

In response, today's miners are adopting a new business model – one that balances and integrates economic, social and environmental objectives leading to a 21st-century industry dedicated to improving the quality of life while sustainably creating wealth and a better future for the Filipino people.



Yet, what the Philippine mining industry, the host communities and other stakeholders are enjoying today would not have been made possible without ***Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's*** belief and unparalleled support and recognition that the responsible development of our mineral resources is a potent tool for economic development, social equity and poverty alleviation.

Our sincerest gratitude... MADAM PRESIDENT!

HORACIO C. RAMOS

LOUIE R. SARMIENTO

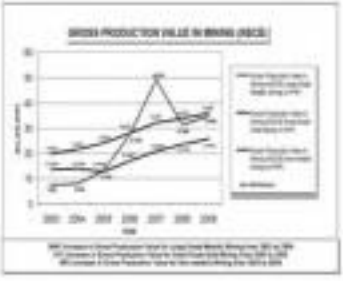
BENJAMIN BELEN ROMUALDEZ

ROBERT G. GREGORY

SAMUEL T. PARACAS

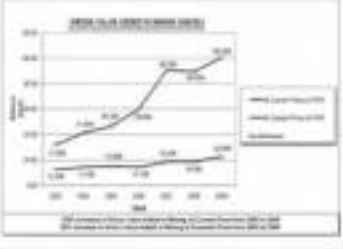
FEDERICO A. MONSADA

FRANCISCO DELFIN, JR.



Social/Community Development Commitment	: PhP 1,182,361,780.81
Environmental Management and Protection and Mine Closure Commitment	: PhP 23,427,786,227.40

Mining Forest Program: 85 participating companies; 9.8 million seedlings planted in more than 11,000 hectares.



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Hacienda Luisita:
NASAAN ANG HUSTISYA?

HINDI tunay na pag-aari ng pamilya Cojuangco ang lupain ng Hacienda Luisita. Napasakamay lamang nila ang 6,453 na ektaryang lupa ng Tabacalera at ang Central Azucarera de Tarlac sa pamamagitan ng utang sa Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) at Bangko Sentral noong 1957 sa kondisyong ipamamahagi paglaon ang lupa sa mga magsasaka. Mula nang ilipat ito sa Tarlac Development Corporation, kinamkam na ang lupa.

Hindi ipinamahagi ang lupa sa mga magsasaka bagkus ipinalit ito sa Stock Distribution Option (SDO) sa ilalim ng Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Sa ilalim ng batas na CARP, pinalawak ang land conversion at exemption sa land reform. Ginito din ang laman ng CARP Extension with Reforms (CARPER). May 3,290 ektarya ang nireklasipika mula lupang agrikultural tungo sa pagtatayo ng Luisita Industrial Park.

Katiting na P18 ang take-home pay ng sakada at P9 naman sa kaswal sa 2 beses kada linggo na trabaho. Noong 2004, tinanggal pa ang 327 na unyonista. Hindi ibinigay ang mga benepisyo sa manggagawa sa asukarera. Binawag ang welga sa pamamagitan ng assumption of jurisdiction (AJ) ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at sumalakay ang mga pulis at sundalo.

Pinaslang ang pito sa welga noong Nobyembre 16, 2004. Pitong ilaw pa ang namatay sa panahon ng welga. Ngayon, patuloy pa ring binabantaan at tinatakot ang mga tao.

Bunga ng pakikibaka ng mga magbubukid, napuwersa ang Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) at Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) sa ilalim ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo na bawiin noong 2005 ang 16-na-taon nang SDO. Ito sana ang magbibigay daan sa pamamahagi ng lupa sa mga magbubukid. Subalit pinigilan ito sa isinampang kaso sa Korte Suprema.

Paano sa ngayon ang mahigit 5,000 pamilya sa Hacienda? Maging ang mga nagtanim ng palay at gulay sa may 2,000 ektarya ng lupain ay pinapalayas na.

Ang usapin ng lupa sa Hacienda Luisita ay mahalaga rin para sa milyon-milyong magsasaka sa buong bansa na pinagkaitan din ng lupa at hustisya.

Huwag sanang maghegis-kamay ang mga may-ari ng hacienda. Huwag sanang sabihing "pamumulitika" ang panawagan ng lupa at hustisya. Lehitimong isyu ang lupa at katarungan para sa mga anakpawis ng hacienda at sambayanan.

Ipamahagi na ang lupa sa mga magsasaka, manggagawang-bukid at manggagawa ng hacienda!
Ibasura ang Stock Distribution Option at CARPER!
Assumption of Jurisdiction, ibasura!
Cojuangco at Gloria, panagutin!
Katarungan para sa mga biktima ng masaker sa Hacienda Luisita!
Labanan ang militarisasyon at pamumupil!
Tunay na reporma sa lupa at pambansang industriyalisasyon, ipaglaban!

ANAKPAWIS Partylist • Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) • Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) • Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) • Unyon ngMangagawa sa Agrikultura (UMA) • United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU) • Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) • Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) • Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (PISTON) • Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) • Pambansang Federasyon ng Kabatahang Magbubukid (AMIHAN) • National Network of Agrarian Reform Advocates -Youth Sector (NNARA-Youth) • Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR) • Crispin B. Beltran Resource Center (CBBRC) • Institute for Occupational Health, Safety and Development • Rep. Rafael V. Mariano • Rep. Joel B. Maglunsod • Randall Echanis • Carmen "Nanay Mameng" Deunida • Elmer "Ka Bong" Labog • Danilo "Ka Daning" Ramos • National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera (Convenor, Pagkakaisa para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo-PATRIA) • UP Faculty Regent Dr. Judy M. Taguiwalo • UP College of Mass Communications Dean Dr. Rolando B. Tolentino • UP Staff Regent Ciceliusildo Cabrera • UP Student Regent Charisse Banez • All-UP Workers Union • Congress of Teachers for Nationalism and Democracy (CONTEND) • Rizalina G. Ombion (Mt. Carmel College, Negros Occidental) • Fr. Rico Ponce, O. Carm (Prior, Teresa of Avila Community) • Rev. Bort dela Pena, O. Carm (Procurator, Teresa Avila Community) • Fr. Edong Malandac, O. Carm (Prior, Order of Carmelites, Agusan del Sur) • Fr. Ruby Abao, MSC Parish Priest, St. Francis of Assisi • Tran Thi Bao Yen, • Balbazar Renato, • Bro. Keith Arriba, O. Carm, • Bro. Marlon Beredo, O.Carm

Lacson aide to wait longer for verdict on extradition

KENNER, New Jersey—A judge reserved ruling on Monday on whether a former Philippine National Police official on who served prison time for receiving classified US government documents will be extradited to face murder charges back home.

US Magistrate Judge Ronald Ellis heard arguments on an extradition request by Michael Ray Aquino to fight extradition, an effort that began in earnest earlier this year after the 43-year-old had served more than three years behind bars for receiving the documents from a former Marine at Fort Monmouth.

Aquino was extradited from federal prison in March but has been held in the Hudson County Correctional Center while his extradition case goes through the courts.

Aquino said two other men, also former Philippine National Police officers, have been charged with a double murder in the Philippines some years ago, and Monday's hearing focused on extradition to the area Great Marcos and Rivera Besides.

Aquino headed a division of an organized crime task force and held a senior position in both Manila and Pampanga. The men are charged in the kidnapping and subsequent murder of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, on November 2000.

According to prosecutors, Aquino was in charge of "special operations," a euphemism for serious aimed at quelling opposition to then President Joseph Estrada.

Manero and Reyes have already been extradited to the Philippines and would, Aquino's attorney, Mark Bronzo, argue, be subjected to "cruel and unusual" punishment, Bronzo said.

Not a trial

Assistant US Attorney Eric Kanefsky argued that there was enough evidence to show probable cause that Aquino could be guilty of the crime, which is all that is required in an extradition proceeding.

"We're not here for the trial of Mr. Aquino," he told Ellis. "We are not here to establish his guilt or innocence."

Ellis did not say when she would render her ruling.

Aquino fled the Philippines in 2000, after being charged with the murders, and eventually settled in New York City with his wife and son. He was charged in 2008 with espionage but pleaded guilty in 2009 to possessing secret documents containing information on the United States' confidential intelligence sources and methods.

He was sentenced to 78 months in prison, but due to it sentencing were a federal judge reduced last March of his Aquino had spent three and a half years behind bars.

Former PSI intelligence analyst Lieutenant Angeles, a US Marine who worked as an military advisor for Vice President Al Gore and Dick Cheney, pleaded guilty to passing the documents to Aquino and is serving a 30-month prison sentence. AP

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LOPERAMIDE 2mg cap	14.00	1.30
MEFENAMIC ACID 500mg cap	27.75	1.80
METFORMIN 500mg tab	11.00	1.70
METOPROLOL 50mg tab	14.50	2.60
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- William D. Torres, Ph.D.
Consultant
(Former BFAD Director)

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The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, November 25, 2009
34th Week in Ordinary Time
Catherine of Alexandria
1st Reading: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
Gospel: Lk 21:12-19

Jesus said to his disciples, "People will lay their hands on you and persecute you; they will be delivered to the synagogues and put in prison, and for his sake you will be brought before kings and governors. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

"You must be clear in mind, do not worry in advance about what to answer, for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

"You will be betrayed even by parents, and brothers, by relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. But even though you are hunted by all for my name's sake, not a hair of your head will perish. Through perseverance you will gain possession of yourselves."

Commentary

Today, we learn the origin of the saying, the writing on the wall! The writing on the wall is an expression that suggests a premonition of misfortune. It can refer to someone who exhibits or "read the writings on the wall" has a certain capacity, the ability to foresee, not necessarily supernaturally, an inevitable decline and fall.

On the night the mighty Babylon fell to the Persians, a strange appeared on the palace wall, written with the finger of God. The terrified king and his astrologers were baffled. They could not explain nor interpret what the writing meant. Then the terrified king called for Daniel, the prophet. By the light of a candlestick, Daniel took ahead, and interpreted the writing. It foretold the immediate end of Belshazzar and his king. He then came night the king of Babylon was slain by the Persian conquest, a new era was born. The writing on the wall is comparable to the greatest warning of all: the Bible. One who writing on the wall, considered the message in the Bible as a mere moral, quaint or non-God's help. Only by the light of the candlestick, that is by the spirit of God, are we endowed by its mysteries.

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Killings leave media stunned

Front page A1

reporters confirmed killed and another two missing.

"Those things cannot happen in a supposedly democratic country," Tonia said.

"This kind of an attack on the members of the media cause didn't even happen in war zones. There needs to be a thorough investigation and the government must bring to justice those responsible," Tonia said.

State of emergency questioned

The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) blamed Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jr. Ivan Duran's recommendation for a declaration of a state of emergency in Maguindanao, calling it a "rash admission that neither the military nor the Philippine National Police can cope with the situation without being armed with special powers."

The CMFR said a state of emergency would provide the legal basis for preventing media from covering the investigation of the massacre and elections in the area.

"We affirm that it is the media's crucial task to provide the citizenry the information it needs as it can make such decisions as to who to vote for as well as collect evidence in its wellbeing and safety."

But the CMFR also reminded that journalists must stay safe and never stray from passionless ship in the next elections.

Black shirts

In Iloilo City, reporters wore black shirts in their coverage to condemn the killings. "I will could not believe that this could have happened," veteran journalist Nestor Calubayan said.

Broadcaster tackled the killings and were at times at a loss for words to describe the brutality of the killings.

"This is senseless. They killed women, lawyers, journalists, all unarmed," said Jonathan Golimpasin, station manager of radio station dySI of GMA network.

The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) urged the government to immediately arrest the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

In a statement, Inquirer Sunbiz, PPI chair and president, said the killing of six political followers of a candidate, two women lawyers and 13 journalists was a senseless slaughter that cries out for the punishment of the killers in the full extent of the law. [The number of fatalities has risen to 46.]

The PPI said: "The victims were political supporters who were exercising their constitutional right to engage in a political activity and the journalists were only performing their duty to cover the news."

"The massacre of 13 journalists is a black day in Philippine journalism," the PPI added.

The PPI urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to disarm all political warlords, dismantle private armies and intensify the drive against loose firearms, of which there are more than 110,000 in Mindanao alone.

Senseless act

The Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) said it could not find enough words to describe its revulsion of the senseless act by barbaric people who have no respect at all for value of human lives.

"If this kind of slaughter continues to happen, then what use is a democratic exercise like the 2010 elections when people are viciously murdered for the sake of political expediency?" it said in a statement.

The MOPC urged authorities to bring the full force of the law to hunting down those responsible for the gruesome murders.

Worst blow

Sunstarpay Plaridel, a group of veteran journalists, said the cause of Philippine journalism for the pursuit of truth suffered its worst blow in Maguindanao allegedly at the hands of local government officials and police authorities.

It said it "considers with the families of the massacre victims whose grief can only be assuaged by the immediate apprehension of the perpetrators regardless of their political affiliation."

The Department of Journalism of the UP College of Mass Communication said it was holding the arroyo administration accountable for the continuing state of lawless violence in Maguindanao and other parts of the country.

Global press freedom and rights group said the event stained the Philippines' tarnished reputation.

"Never in the history of journalism have the arms media suffered such a heavy loss of life in one day," said Clothilde Le Coz, the US director for the global press watchdog Reporters Without Borders.

Barbarism

The Bangkok-based Southeast Asian Press Alliance (Seapa) said the Philippines had one of the highest rates of journalists' killings in the world "even prior to this heinous episode of barbarism."

Seapa said that "warlordism" in Maguindanao was just a symptom that beleaguers Philippine democracy.

"The clear sign that warlordism plays to this, one of the bloodiest episodes in recent Philippine history, should not absolve the government of its accountability for the largest environment it has tolerated, perpetrated and therefore nurtured," it said.

Before the massacre, the New York-based monitor Committee to Protect Journalists ranked the Philippines as the fourth deadliest country for journalists in terms of reporters' deaths for 2009.

Monday's killings, however, will see the Philippines leapfrog Somalia, Iraq and Pakistan into the top spot.

"It condemns in the strongest possible terms the barbaric killing ... of innocent civilians, including women, journalists and lawyers, who were preparing to participate in the electoral process in the Philippines," said the European Union's external relations commissioner.

"In the face of this atrocity, the rule of law and democracy have to prevail," Benita Ferrero-Waldner said in a statement.

MUP statement

In a press conference in Quezon City, Nancy Fajnzo, vice chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, pointed out that the location of the massacre was not even an arena of war.

"These journalists were not just caught in a crossfire," Fajnzo said.

He called on government to get to the bottom of the massacre.

The Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. (Pagpi) has notified that the victims included journalists, some of them publishers and Pagpi members, who were just doing their job in news coverage in Maguindanao.

Pagpi president Juan F. Isyang said the "victims deserve justice."

The College Editors Guild of the Philippines likewise denounced the attack, calling the incident a gross incomprehension of the government to preserving democracy.

Wearing black shirts, some 200 protesters said a prayer in Quezon City for the victims and demanded justice for them. Reports from *Alexis Romero and Julie M. Aurelio in Manila; Victor F. Burgos Jr. Inquirer Visayas; and AFP*

CONDEMNATION: Inquirer.net correspondent Nestor Burgos Jr., chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, issues a statement condemning the killings

Hotel incident made us skip media convoy

From page A1

provincial officials with his own opinions.

He was always late during media events, as we used to tease him "The Late" Ilong Bintulan.

That last joke among us took place outside the living room of the mansion of Sr. Justice Jose Khaddy Mangudadatu of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) in Buluan, Maguindanao.

A few hours later, and 30 kilometers away, Bintulan and 32 other media practitioners would meet their tragic deaths in the hands of a ruthless band of armed goons in Ampatuan town, also in Maguindanao.

That painful truth refuses to sink in my consciousness.

Nothing would actually play the role of a clown and he could easily make anyone in the group smile with his jokes.

Bintulan, the most senior among us, was connected with news as Big Brother. He was already a radio reporter when I was still in high school, way back in the 1980s.

That Monday, a few hours before they were kidnapped and slaughtered, we were enjoying a joint breakfast served by our host, Rafiuddin Joseph Adiong, Oral Bernaldez and I were discussing with Assemblyman Mangudadatu and his legal counsel, Cynthia Oquendo-Ayon, the security concerns and scenarios that may arise as an exercise per certified exchange of ideas.

We were insisting that reporters covering the scheduled filing of the certificate of candidacy (CoC) of Esmael "Toto" Mangudadatu, vice mayor of Buluan, must be assisted of their safety. Maguindanao is seeking the gubernatorial position in Maguindanao.

Lim Ansbil desperados for me unopposed in the 2007 elections. Vice Mayor Mangudadatu claimed that he had received reports that the Ampatuans threatened to chop him into pieces once he filed his CoC.

The desperadoes are considered above the law, warlords and political clowns-ish in Maguindanao, Mangudadatu said. Someone must come in the fore to bring about change and improve the lives of Bangsamoro people, he added.

He said he had requested for the security escorts from Chief Supt. Faisal Unga, ARMM police director, but that was turned down. A similar appeal for help to the Philippine Army were unheeded.

Had the police or military provided necessary escorts, the mass slaughter of defenseless women and journalists could have been prevented.

Massive movements

A week earlier, according to the Mangudadatus, there were massive movements of the Ampatuan political clan's armed followers—police, civilian volunteers and militiamen—in the area.

Believing on the "power" of the media, Vice Mayor Mangudadatu, who left helpless, sought help from Journalists. He asked Henry Araneta of dxBH radio station to contact other media practitioners to cover the scheduled filing of his CoC in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) provincial office in Shariff Aguak town.

Araneta was able to invite 37 journalists from the cities of General Santos, Tacurong and Koronadal.

"Maybe, they will not harm us if journalists are watching them," Mangudadatu had said.

Mangudadatu disclosed that he organized a support group of runners, led by his wife Divalyn, elder sister, Vice Mayor Eden Mangudadatu of Mangudadatu town, youngest sibling Bai Sarinna Mangudadatu, and lawyers Oquendo-Ayon and Connie Bitanania.

The runners from Buluan should be the ones in the his CoC, so security escorts, only journalists to avoid creating tension he said.

"Under our tradition, Muslim women are being respected. They should not be harmed, especially those children and the elders," Mangudadatu stressed.

Active role for women

Eden, his sister-in-law and younger sister were also to a jovial mood before departing to Shariff Aguak. She was even saying that Muslim women should be active participants in Maguindanao politics to attain genuine social change and economic progress.

"This is women power in action. Let's help our men chart a better future for the province," she was heard as saying.

We were confident that nothing bad would happen as some of us in the convoy temporarily visited the provincial capitol.

All in all, there were 58 people in the convoy—37 journalists, 16 Muslim women who carried Mangudadatu's CoC and five drivers.

After several attempts, I was able to contact Maj. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, commanding general of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, through a mobile phone.

He gave an assurance that the national highway going to Shariff Aguak had already been cleared and safe for travel. He even added that police checkpoints littered the long convoy route, from Koronadal to Buluan-Shariff to Shariff Aguak.

Five vehicles, for the 12:00 p.m. of LMT, left Buluan at around 9:30 a.m. that Monday. I was with DYIV reporter Victor Nuñez, his cameraman and driver, and Bernaldez.

Fuel stop

However, while the vehicles were refueling at the Petron station in Buluan, I detailed to transfer to Joseph Adiong's vehicle to accompany him. Bernaldez followed me.

The convoy proceeded. We decided, however, to follow the text of the group after dropping by BF Lodge in Tacurong, where we had stayed the night before, in which the vehicles we left said exact same personal necessities.

Two hired attendants approached me and said two unidentified men riding on separate motorcycles had just left three minutes ago and were asking for the names of journalists covering Mangudadatu's filing of CoC. The hotel management did not give any name.

The reporters made an about-face maneuver and decided against going to Shariff Aguak. On our way back to Buluan, we tried to contact our media colleagues over-all trunk but failed to reach them.

Upon arriving in Buluan, Vice Mayor Mangudadatu told us that the convoy were ambushed by the Ampatuans' armed followers. Journalists, his relatives and his family's supporters were abducted and killed.

Several military sources disclosed that innocent motorists traveling from Buluan to Tacurong were seized and executed on mere suspicion of being followers of the Mangudadatus.

Dead journalists

I remember the names of only 20 of the journalists in the group.

They were Bulanay, Bellorado, Leah Dalmacio, Gina Bela Diaz and Maribeth Cabillas, all of Mindanao Focus, a General Santos City-based weekly community newspaper; Bart Fajardo of Bombo Radyo Koronadal City; Jhoy Dobay of Mindanao Gold; Hay Belly; Henry Araneta of dxBH; Andy Teodoro of Central Mindanao Inquirer.

Nonong Montano of Iloilo weekly newspaper; Victor Nuñez of DYIV and Macmar Arboleda, his cameraman; Jimmy Cabillo, a radio-man based in Koronadal; Nay Merino, Ronnie Perrera, Jun Laguna, Val Cachuela and Theodore Manong, all Koronadal-based journalists; Joel Parcon, Ismol Bacon, John Cesalla, Art Bella, Sanie Tuano and Sup Salcoop.

Later that night, gory scenes of slain media colleagues kept flashing on my mind. For the very first time in my life, I didn't have an appetite.

Once again, several working journalists shed their blood in the name of press freedom. This, however, will not drive us discourage us from doing our job.

Undeterred and under threat, let that as it may, we will continue answering the call of our beloved profession.

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Slain reporter leaves 7 kids

By Nina May de Guzman Mateos
Inquirer Mindanao

AFTER 25 YEARS Aklan serving as a correspondent for 23 years, Alejandro "Bong" Reñlande was recently made a regular employee of the Manila Bulletin and even bought a new car. Photo by Glenn de Cordoba in Tarangan province

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—ONE of the journalists killed in Maguindanao on Monday was a father of seven who was severely traumatized by a national day after serving as his correspondent for 23 years.

"Among my colleagues in Mindanao, I'm the first to be employed by Manila Bulletin," Alejandro "Bong" Reñlande said. His promotion gave him regular pay and hefty bonuses.

Reñlande just got a brand new car which he proudly called his own.

He had covered stories ranging from petty crimes and bombings to Manny Pacquiao's bouts known and biggest fights and the war in Central Mindanao.

In his few remaining days as a reporter, he was investing in his coverage.

On Nov. 17, while covering the effects of climate change in the provinces of Sarangani and South Cotabato with other journalists, Reñlande peppered the Dabao-Philippines boats and Sarangani leaders with questions about illegal logging. Roots, he thinks and the falling fish stock in coastal villages.

"What could be done?" he asked fatefully Sarangani Gov. Miguel Dominguez and Glenn Mabolisc, communications officer of Dabao-Philippines. Both offered few answers and Reñlando seemed a bit satisfied.

Along with Philippine Star correspondent Rumil Bajo and Rosa May de Guzman of this pa-

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news rights alive in Mindanao.

Concepcion, "Connie" Brizuela, 38, and Cynthia Oquendo, 33, were with members of the Mangudadatu clan and at least a dozen media practitioners who were waylaid and murdered in Maguindanao by a group of armed men now being linked to the Mangudadatus' political rivals.

Brizuela was a classmate of Buluan Vice Mayor Ahmad "Toto" Mangudadatu, who had asked his wife, two sisters, Brizuela and Oquendo to file his certificate of candidacy for governor of Maguindanao in Shariff Aguak town.

Brizuela, the treasurer of the Union of Peoples Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLM), is known to her friends as a brave woman, such that her fellow lawyer Beverly Musni refused to believe that Brizuela was gone unless her own family relayed the news.

"She will fight. She will live. She's not someone who would give up easily," Musni told the Inquirer. "Her laughter is full of life. I refuse to believe she's gone."

Musni said that relatives still clung to word from Brizuela's family she received reminder her friend abducted.

Wellspring of strength

Brizuela has three grown children and dotted on her grandchildren. "In her friends and colleagues, she runs a "wellspring of strength," Musni added.

Brizuela's small frame concealed the big heart she had for the oppressed, someone whose voice resonated from the pain and struggle of the victims of human rights violations, according to her friends.

Over the years, Brizuela was no stranger to death threats.

Brizuela had the gentleness of an "Ilonggo" who was also firm and determined.

She was not known for being reckless as she would tell fellow human rights lawyers to be reminded of the dangers and threats that come with the territory.

Undeterred by the powerful

"In her diminutive frame loomed large a brave people's lawyer and human rights defender undeterred by the rich and the powerful in Mindanao," said Bishop Felixberto Calang, convener of the Initiatives for Peace Mindanao (InPeace), the group that Brizuela helped convene.

Calang said Brizuela had been at the forefront of the campaign against the climate of impunity.

"We are outraged that it has caught up with her through this tragic and gruesome death. We will miss her," Calang said.

Lawyer Corbor Ingkal Zanate said Brizuela's death was revolting. "She's a great loss not only to us but also to the people whose rights she fought for. We lost an elder sister. She will be sorely missed," said Zanate, UPLM secretary general.

Zanate said Brizuela could not allow injustice to happen to anyone. "She's not doing something about it. She always stood for the people. She was a people's lawyer," the UP-Lib chief said.

Brizuela, one of the founding members of UPLM, the forerunner of the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL), was also one of those who convened the group Lawyers for Peace.

Libel suit from Pilot

A former broadcaster who did not flinch in criticizing wrongdoers, Brizuela had been one of the leaders of a group fighting for good governance in Cotabato.

In 2005, Brizuela and three others were jailed following a P1-million libel suit filed against them by former Shell Cotabato first Emmanuel Pilot.

Brizuela, a Kidapawan native, came from a hacked family but embraced human rights and public-interest cases when she entered the law profession, according to Zanate.

She also handled cases against military officials, the police and civilian armed groups. "This was when she impressed on those to do public interest lawyering among women," Zanate said.

While undeterred by threats, Brizuela also knew how to protect herself.

When she managing management started coming in, she informed us thereof, although she seemed to take threats as attend to her cases, Zanate said.

Dutch fact-finding mission

Bayan Muna Rep. Teri Colmenares, who worked with Brizuela in the NUPL, remembers his colleagues as a passionate woman who actively participated in the fact-finding mission of the Dutch Lawyers for Lawyers group that probed the threats and harassments against lawyers and judges.

"I received a message that more people will be killed and one of them would be me ... I received several death threats," Brizuela told the mission then.

The group had produced a video report of its probe, and in it, Brizuela revealed her experiences and warned of the danger of attacking lawyers and justices.

"If they can kill lawyers, practically anybody. If they can kill judges, whose cases are pending, then they can do that to ordinary people," Brizuela said.

Oquendo at MSU

Oquendo was also a member of the UPLM.

Her friend, Vicky Gloria, an Ilgan-based journalist, recalled that Oquendo was involved in activism and health-related causes when they were at Mindanao State University (MSU). Oquendo had taken up nursing there.

But Oquendo's heart with the militant life did not sit well with her mother, and she was later transferred to Cebu where she took up political science and became a lawyer, Gloria said.

As a lawyer, Oquendo went for "alternative lawyering" and made service to social justice movements. Gloria said that though she and Oquendo had not been meeting regularly, they had kept in touch through social networking sites. She learned that Oquendo had gotten married and had children.

Playing piano

In school, Oquendo was active in church and expressed herself through playing the piano, according to Gloria.

Oquendo did not keep an active social life back then and devoted her time to studying, activism and church, she added.

Oquendo was a quiet girl, but she was not weak. She stood for for what she believed in, according to Gloria.

"So I know her, if she will be in a conflict situation, she would not be in the frontline. But her strength is that she will stand for what she believes is right," Gloria said.

Friendster profile

Oquendo's Friendster profile listed some of her hobbies—debunking, cross-examining lying witnesses, shop-shop [sic] clothes, ice cream and driving alone.

She was also interested in mental telepathy and the unknown. Her profile picture was that of three young boys, presumably her sons.

Her friendster page has also been filled with messages of love, gratitude and lament.

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'Urduja' makes landfall in S. Leyte

By Alexie Papa

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "URDUJA," which made landfall in Southern Leyte early yesterday, has changed direction and is now moving east-northeast, according to the weather bureau.

A high-pressure area near Palawan is the little boy is blocking Urduja's way, said Prisco Nilo, director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

Urduja was earlier monitored to be tracking a west northwest route through the Visayas on its way out of the country.

However, another weather disturbance east of the country, a typical storm with intensified name "Siduja," is pulling Urduja eastward, Nilo said.

Nilo, which is still outside the Philippines' area of responsibility, is forecast to move northeast.

Nilo said Urduja would eventually follow its east-northeast route.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, the center of Urduja was spotted 40 kilometers north of Surigao City, packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour.

By Wednesday afternoon, Urduja is forecast to be 80 kilometers northeast of Surigao City.

Pagasa raised Storm Signal No. 1 over Bohol, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Camiguin Island, Biliran, Eastern Samar and Western Samar in the Visayas, and the Surigao provinces, Agusan del Norte, Dinagat island, Siargao island and Zamboanga in Mindanao.

Warning

Residents in landslide-prone areas and living near mountainous slopes were warned against possible flashfloods and landslides.

Bohol, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will see rains and occasional gusty winds with moderate to rough seas.

Southern Luzon and the rest of Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered windstorms and thunderstorms.

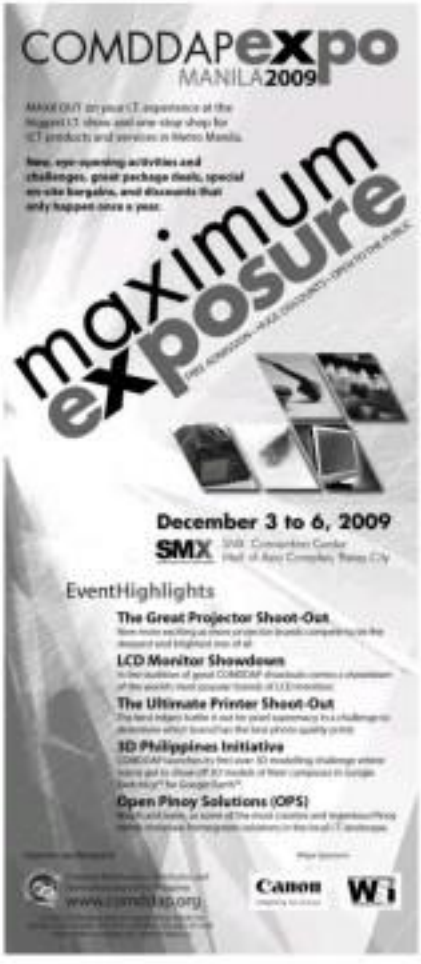
The rest of Luzon, including Metro Manila, will be mostly cloudy with scattered light rain.

A total of 679 persons were stranded in the ports of Surigao and Bislimit provinces yesterday after the Coast Guard cancelled all ship travel as it brings moved over Southern Leyte.

In Surigao, 227 passengers bound for Bislimit were stranded in Pilar port and 162 in Dapa port, according to a report from the the Office of Civil Defense in Bicol.

About 40 passengers were also stranded in Bapor port in Bislimit.

The report said 9 trucks, 7 cars, 7 buses and 13 fishing vessels were also stranded in different airports, with Guiuna (on Bohol), Inquirer Southern Luzon



Microsoft names 'Munti' HS among most innovative

By Philip C. Tubeza

FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO educational reform and use of Information Technology to improve student learning, the Muntinlupa Science High School has been named by computer giant Microsoft as among the "most innovative schools" in the world. Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said yesterday.

Lapus said the Microsoft Partners in Learning Innovative Schools Program named the school—located along Sunvalla St., Tunasan, Muntinlupa—as one of this year's "41 Pathfinder schools in the world," beating 104 nominees from 41 other countries.

Microsoft honored Muntinlupa Science High School at the 2007 Worldwide Innovative Education Forum (IEF) held in Istanbul, Turkey, on Nov. 6.

"Many other schools here and abroad draw inspiration from your achievements and innovative projects," Lapus said, lauding the school for "maximizing the use of technology and making a contribution in the community."

21st century learners

According to Microsoft, Muntinlupa Science High Announcement "strong school leadership" in increasing the use of IT in everyday operations and spreading their knowledge to other teachers and students in the larger community.

With the recognition, the school gains access to the latest Microsoft technologies and tool kits that will help its students "become 21st century learners. The school will also receive mentoring from worldwide education stakeholders," Lapus said.

School principal Modelina Ann Diaz said they will have two mentors—two principals, one from Singapore and another from Australia.

They will also actively participate in a monthly online forum with other Pathfinder schools.

"My principle is to learn, lead and share. My goal is to learn as much as possible from these programs, lead my community and share with others," Diaz said.

She said she hopes she would be able to mentor other schools and "cascade the innovative programs."

Integrating technology

Diaz told many teachers in Muntinlupa Science High School have integrated technology in their work and availed of affordable laptops through school cooperatives.

The school has been a Microsoft partner since 2004.

She said her faculty has been inspired to IT integration and "values formation that redound to the benefit of the community."

She also cited the students' Adopt-A-Barrio program. "Our high school students visit the community and look for elementary school children who have difficulty reading and help them. Using laptops, they teach them how to read, making it interactive and fun," Diaz said.

LPG price hike seen

THE PRICE OF COOKING GAS may rise by ₱0.50 a kilogram on Tuesday next week due to the expected increase in the international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) next month.

This will raise the price of an 11-kilogram LPG cylinder, which is used by most households, by almost ₱40, according to the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA).

In a phone interview, LPGMA president Arnel Ty explained that the latest price hike was due to an announced $70-per-metric-ton (MT) increase in the international contract price. He added that, as of this month, the contract price stood at $800 per MT and was expected to rise to $720 per MT by December.

Despite the anticipation for a bigger demand for LPG during the coming holidays, Ty warned the public that this would be the only increase they will implement next month.

This price hike is also the first to be implemented by LPGMA member companies, following the freezing of the prices of all petroleum products at their Oct. 15 levels, by virtue of Executive Order No. 839. Amy R. Remo

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Tomorrow Begins in the East.

Newborn care key to baby's survival–DOH

By Doris Pazzibugan

THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF HANDLING newborns, like dumping and cutting the umbilical cord and washing the baby right after birth, have been known to seriously contribute to the high incidence of neonatal deaths and diseases in the country.

Doctors are introducing a new way of caring for newborns in the first few minutes of life, which could cut by almost half the number of newborn deaths estimated at 40,000 each year.

"This is a paradigm shift," says Jose Dr Mercier Hosanero Cortina, head of the Department of Health (DOH) Task Force on the rapid cardiac test of neonatal and neonatal mortality, described this new program to be endorsed by the DOH and the World Health Organization.

Proponents of the Essential Newborn Care (ENC) are changing the protocol currently observed by childbirth practitioners.

The ENC protocol prioritizes drying the newborn and initiating skin contact with the mother before clamping and cutting the umbilical cord. Approaches against separation of mother-to-baby contact are also discouraged.

Delaying the cord clamping not to three minutes after birth (or waiting until the umbilical cord has stopped pulsing), has been shown to increase the baby's iron reserves. It also reduces the risk of anemia, deficiency anemia and improves blood circulation.

Instead of immediately washing the newborn, the baby should be placed on the mother's chest or abdomen to provide warmth, increase the duration of uninterrupted and allows the "good bacteria" from the mother's skin to colonize the newborn.

"Delaying the start of breastfeeding is harmful," Cortina stressed. She said a delay of one day could make the newborn 2.8 times more prone to infection.

"Washing should be delayed until after six hours because this exposes the newborn to hypothermia and removes the vernix (skin covering) which is a natural protective barrier against bacteria. Washing also removes the baby's scent, leading to," she said.

The ENC protocol is being practiced in three hospitals so far—Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City and Fabella Memorial Medical Center and Philippine General Hospital in Manila.

Corrections

IN THE NOV 19 ISSUE, an Active Section story on Page A10—"Harrison explorer builds name in movie world"—misnamed the surname of an award-winning writer. His name is Mayor Eileen ...not Eileen.

IN THE NOV 21 ISSUE, a story on Page A10—"Cure is 'often' worse, Aquino is 'suffering'" misspelled the surname of a Filipino boxing champion. His name is Gilmore Pacquiao...not Pacquiao.

IN THE NOV 22 ISSUE, a front page photo caption misnamed the place where a tribute to the late environmentalist Gilette Abaurrea was held recently. The tribute was held in Davao...not Tagum.

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A6—"Why Bongbong, millions voted wrong to know"—misnamed this party-list Rep. Julio Ocampo of Bayan Muna was impressed with his wife Carolina Mejia during their wedding. Mejia was not impressed with Ocampo during the sale of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. She was detained in the late 1980s during the administration of President Corazon Aquino.

IN EARLIER EDITIONS of the Nov 24 issue, the word "feared" was inadvertently omitted in a three-page photo caption. The caption should have read: "Maguindanao is where as many as 56 people, including journalists, have been declared and are feared killed in the course of a long-running political feud."

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a front page story—"Balikbayan's 'no' triumph underscored of 'NO' ideas"—misdated the nickname of a senator. His name is Ramon "Bong"—not "Bongbong"—Revilla Jr.

Readers may send their requests for corrections at [redacted] or writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, 12th Floor, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Street, Makati City, fax No. [redacted], e-mail address [redacted]

Complete clear facts of [redacted] after today may be sent to the Publisher e-mail address [redacted] or [redacted] fax No. [redacted] The Publisher will provide number [redacted]

JUSTICE PALMA AWARD Former senator Joker Salonga receives the trophy for the Ateneo-Ledda Hilario Davide Jr., the former Chief Justice, as the first awardee of the Jaime Cardia Matías Palma Award in yesterday's ceremonies. Salonga earned the award for standing up against Martial Law, defending the rights to freedom of the press and the persecuted.

INQUIRER

OPINION

Overlords

EDITORIAL

Let no one doubt that the horrors perpetrated in Maguindanao, to which two candidates, media persons accompanying them to the Comelec office, and civilians were engaged by policemen and paramilitary forces who then proceeded to murder and rape the group, deserves the strongest condemnation. We join the outrage and the demand for justice for the victims. And yet we must acknowledge that this kind of political murder is par for the course among the warlord families who have thrived in the arts of impunity fostered by the present dispensation. The only thing different is the scale of the butchery, the level of brazen impunity, to that on case previously condemned to dying off such atrocities: we do so now that Christians and media people have become targets as well.

And yet there is a danger in focusing on the massacre perpetrated by the goons of the Ampatuans, against their rivals from the Mangudadatu clan as something uniquely Moro, the rule or clan vendettas engaged in there are no different from other financially petty feuds, such as that between the Singsons and the Crisologos in Ilocos Sur. The Ampatuans themselves are unique only in that their level of opportunistically increases in direct proportion to their sense of impunity.

Impunity, then, is the issue: it is the reason why the Ampatuans act with impunity that must be probed.

In the first place, there is the cynical belief by national authorities that privatized warlords are a necessary and valuable counterwailing force to extreme and rebel groups. If the Ampatuans are despicable, there are many other warlords not only in Mindanao but in the Visayas and Luzon who thrive on similar combinations of terrorizing voters and making themselves useful to the military and the national government.

We cannot help but notice how the spokesmen of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., tried to avoid using the word "massacre," at first referring to the mass murder as an "issue." His immediate concern seemed to be to absolve the AFP of responsibility for failing to secure a national highway after the Maguindanao incident asked for security. The AFP tried to pass the buck to the Philippine National Police (after all, one of the suspected culprits is the provincial PNP chief) when most observers in fact agree that the local police *is* one with the AFP.

And yet, much as the Ampatuans are one of many warlord clans, they are, indeed, a class that stands apart.

We must not overlook the reality that the Ampatuans enjoy an unprecedented level of power and impunity compared to other Moro warlord dynasties (such as the Dimaporos) that inspired so far regional overlords over other warlords in previous times. Those aspiring to passionate outrage sensing warning and competing class in the past did so by means of the patronage of presidents, and only for the duration of the administrations that backed them. In contrast, the Ampatuans can stand on their own, regardless of who sits in Malacañang, and regardless of whether or not they are connected to the sole administration candidate.

They proved their mettle in the elections of 2004 and 2007, and those who are skittish about demanding accountability from the national government and candidates that benefited from the electoral machinations of the Ampatuans (and other administrations allies) must reflect on their culpability in this grisly turn of events. Embedded institutions were saddled with ensuring accountability which too many tried to excuse the President's efforts to thwart these exercises. Now we have where we have.

And that is, that even as the President's advisers darkly propose a state of emergency or some sort of emergency rule in Maguindanao, just how willing or able will the national government be to actually do something about the Ampatuans as the country—and the ruling coalition—braces for the 2010 elections? Just last week, at the Lakas-Kampi-CMD convention, Speaker Prospero Nograles (the Ampatuans maintain three mansions in Davao City) and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Raul Gonzalez were photographed arm in arm with a beaming Akbibil Gov. Datu Zaldy Ampatuan, and at a time when Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales was gearing up to activate military reservists. Nothing Ampatuan did in the past could dispel Lakas-Kampi-CMD boothsome yesterday and nothing that happens tomorrow will interfere with the ramping up of the military establishment by proponents of impunity like Gonzales.

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What Erap, Ebdane plan to do as president

WHEN FOR SOME PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES when they would do if they win, they all answers with the same motherhood statements: they would reinforce poverty, curb graft and corruption, improve the economy, etc., etc. In reality they do not have the slightest idea how to go about it.

Last Monday I visited our two guests, former President Joseph Estrada of Pantilo ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), and former Public Works Secretary Rene Joaquin Ebdane of Lapiang Manggagawa (LM). How they would go about addressing their motherhood statements. For example, how would they reinforce poverty, curb corruption, etc.?

Estrada had a clear idea of what he would do, Ebdane's was not so clear.

Estrada said he would prioritize peace and order. When there is peace, when there is no insurgency, no insurgency, the other problems would follow. With insurgency and hostility, investors and tourists stay away, so we have to direct-assets to put up hotels and every movie star, and our taxes go toward dollars. Moreover, we want to make it easier to fight drug rebels, money we sorely need for social services and infrastructure.

"Do you know that we spend P30 billion a year to fight a never-ending war?" Erap said. "With that amount, I will assure you I will have P10 billion a year and use that for other purposes, build homes, schools and hospitals, etc. With the military no longer preoccupied with war, I will use the soldiers for construction, build farm-to-market roads and bridges, schools, health centers, etc.

"Labor would be free. The soldiers would do the work. I don't have to pay construction firms the earnings. Those earnings can be used for other needs. There will be a dividend effect.

"With more farm-to-market roads, farmers can raise their produce to markets more speedily so they would get more for their crops. At the same time, consumers will pay lower prices because transportation cost would be less.

"When the countryside is peaceful, investors and tourists will come in. You have a big dollar source of any neighbors. Do you know that tourists who come here are only a pitiful fraction of the tourists who go to Thailand?" And yet we have the same, or far better, natural attractions than those of Thailand.

"With more investments, there would be more jobs for Filipinos here. They don't have to work abroad to support their families. They would be able to afford their own homes (they don't have to be squatters), they can send their children to good schools (also social), have, get better jobs, etc.

"With everybody happy, comfortable, and secure all, there would be no corruption or extortion."

Who can dispute such logic?

* * *

Ebdane's plans are not detailed, but they are centered on roads. He has been public works secretary for many years, after all. His goal is to build national highways to connect all the islands of the archipelago from the north to the south. He is now starting that goal, Ebdane said. That had been his assignment under President Arroyo.

Also, his administration would be pro-labor. He points to the Labor Code, after all, instead of a minimum wage, workers should have a "living wage."

What is a "living wage"? Enough to be able to afford a home, enough food to eat, sufficient clothes, enough to send the children to good schools and for good health, etc.

Ebdane's platform, although preoccupied with labor, does not ignore foreign relations. His administration would strengthen relations with our neighbors and the rest of the world.

* * *

Who is Ebdane's running mate?

"Have still be a press conference where the complete ticket will be announced," Ebdane replied.

How about Erap, does he have a complete senatorial lineup?

"Not yet, but we have some of the biggest stars on the senatorial lineup."

How about some names?

"Senator President Jinggoy Estrada (senator Jinggoy Estrada (senator Jinggoy Estrada (senator

State of emergency

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE MAY 2010 NATIONAL ELECTION was marred by the bloodiest massacre on Monday morning, President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of emergency in two provinces and one city. This was the first time an emergency was declared in relation to an election, although past Philippine elections have often been marked by violence between private armies of provincial political warlords.

The carnage in Maguindanao on the gruesome eve of election violated violence. The massacre took place outside the motel of the fighting clan setting from the Ampatuan Municipal Hall between governor Zaldy Ampatuan and Mora Mamo Liberation Front rebels fighting for the establishment of a separate Bangsamoro homeland in Mindanao.

The casualties were both Muslims and Christians, and no group associated with the MILF or the Moro National Liberation Front has been linked to the massacre. The President condemned the attack and said no one will be allowed to flout democracy impossible. "Civilized society has no place for this kind of violence," she said.

The human rights organization, Amnesty International, reported the killings of at least 21 civilians, including journalists, relatives and supporters of a local family politicians, and that the slaughter was the first to be linked to the May 2010 election. According to first reports, a group of about 45 people were ambushed and abducted by about 100 armed men. "The military reported that it had recovered the bodies of 13 women and eight others, some of them mutilated.

Reports said Buluan Vice Mayor Esmail "Toto" Mangudadatu, led by his wife Genalyn, was way late on 10:30 a.m. by armed men, while they were on their way to file the vice mayor's certificate of candidacy for provincial governor in the province east office of the Commission on Elections in Shariff Aguak. The Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy said the barbarous slaughter during civilians in the run-up to the national elections."

According to Vice Mayor Mangudadatu, among those killed where his wife, his two sisters-in-laws, vice mayor of Mangudadatu town, and Bai Sitti, and his legal counselor Cynthia Gigantela and Lawyer Bernardo Mangudadatu is running for governor, a post held by four similar lawyers, whose son, the mayor of Datay town, is reported to be seeking to fill. The Mangudadatus are reported to be engaged in a long-running feud with the Ampatuan clan, which counts among its members Gov. Andy Ampatuan of the ARMM.

The slaughter reaped the biggest haul of deaths among journalists, who were covering the filing of Mangudadatu's certificate of candidacy in one stroke of violence. The New York Times Communities to Protect Journalists said, "Covering the news has always been dangerous in the Philippines, but the wanton killing of so many people makes this an assault on the very fabric of the country's democracy."

This condemnation echoed the statement of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines which said: "This [massacre] not only events all doubts about the Philippines being the most dangerous country for journalists in the world, outside of Iraq, it could very well place the country on the Iraqis a candidate for a failed democracy."

More than 30 Filipino journalists have been killed for their work since 1992, and 27 others have been killed for reasons other than their work. NUJP pointed out that only five cases have been brought to trial, giving the Philippines one of the worst records of impunity in cases involving the killing of journalists in the world, as well as cases involving the even judicial executions of leftist activists by anonymous death squads.

Whether or not the crackdown ordered by President Arroyo on the private armies of Mindanao warlords will lead to their disbandment and stop violence from escalating into wondrous is very much in doubt. The army is fully engaged in fighting the Muslim separatist rebels, and can ill afford to divert its effort and forces to disarming the armies of warlords.

Mangudadatu's move to unfairly prevented to have benefited from the ARMM's "reservoir of votes" during the 2004 presidential election, in which her intervention in the rally is widely believed to have led to the rigging of the election, allowing her to win.

The Maguindanao slaughter has heightened fears that the declaration of emergency in areas could be the ground for a possible declaration of a failure of election to some parts of the country, giving the President an excuse to suspend the election from such places and opening the way for the imposition of martial law. Declaration of martial law, no matter how limited in scope, is being made at a critical moment of no election in which the President is unfairly suspected of grabbing opportunities to suspending it.

Reality checks

THE RECENT COMELEC DECISION DENYING BAYCLIST registration for Ang Ladlad, an LGBT organization, has stirred a hornet's nest, with numerous columns and blogs as well as letters to the editor instigating the decision.

LGBTT That's an acronym which means lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. I house the term is unsavory but it's the preferred of many years of organizing, initially among male homosexuals, calling themselves gay rights and then expanded to include lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, the last term referring to people who take on male roles that straddle both the male and the female.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I went into this lengthy explanation to emphasize that LGBT has many sub-categories, but to used now as a kind of collective identity by people who feel discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.

I do hear friends claiming that the Philippines is liberal when it comes to LGBT, pointing to the many bakla (and baklita, the younger ones) walking down the streets in full make-up and attire, but that's because we tend to a policy-check here. There is discrimination, less blatant but often quite vicious, in homes, schools, offices, churches and mosques.

Anti-women

What kind of discrimination? From a very early age, many LGBT, especially males, suffer from discrimination at home, and that can include severe beatings from fathers and brothers who believe that they can beat "the sexism" out of the suspected faulds son. You can see that there are strong misogynist (anti-women) undertones in homophobia (a fear of homosexuals).

Parents' fears of having a "queer" child border on paranoia, and I'm not exaggerating when I say that. Just last month while opening at a lunch, I overheard a woman talking with a young boy. She asked him if she liked the Power Rangers and the boy answered, "Ayoko." The woman responded, "Why baket? Bilhon si lot gabi sabi, ayo you lah-ki?"

"Tomboys," because they're girls, don't usually get beaten up at home, but to adulthood will sometimes suffer more than the bakla, getting "beaten up, too, or worse. Lesbians have been raped. On assault coming from men who believe this will bring "the woman" (read a man-lover) out of the tomboy.

The hate crimes can go all the way. Those days, when I read about a woman mysteriously raped and sometimes murdered, or of unsolved murders of single men, I wonder if there was an LGBT angle to it.

Sadly, some of the most rabid anti-gay comments and intolerance can come from homosexuals themselves who have problems coming to terms with their own sexuality. Anxiety engenders rabid behavior because people in denial feel desperate and, if not stopped, may commit violence themselves.

Let's go back now to the Comelec decision. There is no law against homosexual acts in the Philippines, so the Comelec cannot claim that Ang Ladlad represents people engaging in illegal activities, which is much more than we can say about the many people the Comelec has allowed to run for office. There are laws, the Comelec has to be reminded, against plunder, graft and corruption, money laundering, child molestation (which they use now as a tag on all LGBT).

Churches divided

The Comelec decision mainly uses religious grounds to block Ang Ladlad, citing such as constitutional provisions on the separation of Church (and mosque) and State. But even other religious is concerned, the "moral objection" label is high to countenance. The Comelec decision cites a Baptist preacher, who died in 1997 to "prove" the immorality of homosexuality, but the Baptists, despite their conservative reputation, have differing views about homosexuality. There is even one group, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (www.awbaptists.org) with this vision statement: "We envision that the day may speedily come within Baptist Churches when we shall feel confident from God's love in Jesus Christ that we can welcome homosexuals and gender minority." Locally, I know many Baptists who are active in feminist and reproductive health organizations.

Among the clergy and lay people from various Christian and Muslim groups, there are also differing views on homosexuality. Many faith institutions are divided on issues around LGBT. Anglicanism being one of the most affected with some of their member churches advocating the ordination of openly lesbian priests and gays (or even gay bishops).

The Catholic official stand is explained as "love the sinner (proximately the homosexual), hate the sin (the homosexual acts)," a prescription that does little to reduce the bigotry. Just look at the Comelec decision, after railing against LGBT, it adds: "We are not condemning the LGBT, but we cannot compromise the well-being of the greater number of our people, especially the youth."

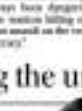
Not exactly the Catholic Church, but the moral-czar, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a recent convert from no-religion to Catholicism, stirred some controversy this year when he said the Pope (and, presumably the Catholic hierarchy) needed to rethink their "retrograde" attitudes about homosexuality. On biblical passages being used to label homosexuality as immoral, Blair noted that if we took the Bible literally as "using white food and religion is all about, you don't have many religious policies." Blair especially cited King with "hands of concubines" being allowed in the Old Testament. Read Leviticus and you'll find people allowed to eat locusts, crickets and grasshoppers but not "all other winged insects which have four feet." All males had to be circumcised and women could not touch anything period for 33 days after the birth of a son, or after a daughter.

One last reality check: I can say with great confidence there's an LGBT in every family, not necessarily a bolder and more visible family as tomboys. It could be the son who gets a thrill from basketball, or motorcycles, or cuddling (smile). Or that daughter who loves things pink and carries make-up in a sling bag. That LGBT can be Ate or Kuya. Tito or Tita, it can even be Inday or Mang, or your parish priest or pastor, school principal or family doctor. With that perspective, don't you think the insensitivity has to be that there is need to label people so as excuse for depriving them of their rights?

Email to: mtan@inquirer.com.ph

Understanding the unbelievable

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS TUNED IN TO "BANTE BAWBO GMA," UBM 7's early evening newscast, Monday evening and at first I thought I had heard the "breaking news" headline wrong. Even newscaster Mike Enriquez sounded as if he couldn't believe what he was reading.

More than 30 people killed, the vast kidnapped? Among the dead a number of media people and women, some of them beheaded and bearing evidence of having been raped? It sounded more like a scene in one of some outlandish Rizzoni, or even the top of Hollie, not a real life event involving Filipinos. Worse, the ambush and slaughter seemed to signal the beginning of what promises to be a most violent and violence-ridden season. The "season" candidates have yet to file their certificates of candidacy, and already there were real massacres are taking place. Can we expect a bloodsoaked 2010 election?

PYOO' head former Ambassador Heinrich de Villa looked a little and when we bumped into each other yesterday. "I knew some of the victims," the ambassador, who had the sad visited Maguindanao apparently to promote elections and inspiration for next year's vote. As part of the solution, she added, she was planning a trip to the area to assess the situation, smiling wanly when I warned with have to call together her to "please keep safe."

Describing the assailants up with local Comelec authorities, added the ambassador, was the matter of allowing candidates from clan factions to file their COCs in "safe" or at least "neutral" areas. The reason the delegation from the Maguindanao that was particularly vulnerable, some have pointed out, was that they had to pass through territory controlled by their rival Ampatuan clan.

The Ampatuans, including ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, former Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan and his son, Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr., are of course the national suspects, given their troubled history with the Mangudadatus. But they are also considered valued political allies of the President and her ruling party.

The latest bit of cover is that the President has already declared a state of emergency in Maguindanao and has dispatched troops to the area. On one hand, the presence of the military may calm the situation somewhat, and prevent the onset of retaliatory attacks. On the other, the availability of heavy arms and manpower could result in a massive escalation of the conflict, with the home situation ripe for exploitation by forces with more sinister motives.

* * *

If, if some reports say, the massacre is just part of a long-standing clan feud (rido), we need to understand first of all the nature of the rido and why this all Filipinos pay where clan ones erupt. Freelance journalist Sunnie Cuizo provided this background, based on an article by Soraya Sinsicher written in 2007.

"Once a rido has started the impact on a family and even the community at large is manifold. Sinsicher writes that during a rido, every member of a family has to take part. The youngest join the sub-daily tasks. Security, especially at night, has to be provided so men have to hide completely and have to leave women and children behind. Even evacuation and moving to a safe residence far away might be necessary. Property can be destroyed and livestock lost. Because targets of high status are preferred, it is often the headmen or advisers in charge. That was the apparent group can cripple the enemy financially (Ortiga). Also the situation of children gets neglected which can have far reaching consequences, and even though women, children and outsiders are normally excluded, they have their own ways to help out.

"Therefore not just the conflicting parties but the community as a whole is suffering. On top of random killings, public property and surrounding houses are getting destroyed."

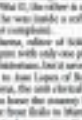
* * *

"BUT the impact of rido does not stop with the family and the community. It even has a national dimension: it threatens the peace talks between the government and the MILF (Ungkat-e-Camadayo Bangsamoro, 2008). As members of the feuding clans might be closely related to either government or military officials no one side or members of the MILF on the other side, both forces are easily dragged into the conflict. This can lead to a 'full-blown war' (Ungkat).

"If and in whatever way the government is dragged into a conflict, it will end the taxpayers' millions of pesos spent on the peace process in vain, but peace is at will. If the government supports an amicable settlement local officials often have to look for resources to help in rebuilding houses or ruining the blood money that is requested by the offended party (Arguillas). Finally, the rido can also be a threat to democracy because they take time and resources away ... Endemic development follows promptly."

Photographs

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

EVEN IF YOU CARRY ONE OF THESE SUPERcolly-esque proof, machine-readable e-passports you will still be subjected to close biometric screening in airports abroad. Some airport immigration officers capture your photograph, others take fingerprints. On entry he feels eyes scan your retina. Some day soon they do not recognize from film, everyone will be identified with the most had proof number of identity: DNA.

Photography and photography came to the Philippines in the late 19th century making it easier for historians to reconstruct the past. Because of this invention we don't have to rely on paintings that like these, we know how people dressed, we even know what our houses looked like. Texts that figured in the making of the nation were preserved in photographs and scattered into stamps, coins and paper bills: Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Melchora Aquino, both from Gregoria de Jesus, Lakambini of the Katipunan; Marcela Agoncillo, who directed the sewing of the first Philippine flag; Melchora Aquino, who declared and led the weary Katipuneros; and Emilio Aguinaldo first sole who was given the honor of being the first person in the record of the Founding Mothers of the nation. We have photographs of Rizal's mother and even Aguinaldo's mother who was carried all over during the Revolution in a hammock but she in captured by the enemy and used to lure her son into a trap. What about Rizal's wife, Josephine Bracken and Bonifacio's grandchildren of the nation?

Perhaps the most documented lens we have a Rizal who was photographed throughout his life, from age 14 as an intense student to the split second before he was shot dead in Bagumbayan. Rizal's photographs are familiar to each one photograph and in it the Great Plebeian, the hero of the nation, is not wearing the white camisa de chino and rolled up, sacrificing and handsome pants, he is garbed in a black suit with white tie!

Aguinaldo outlived everyone in the Revolution, so there are photographs of him as an idealistic young revolutionary and quite the time he was forty. He was absolved our each year for bullpens during his a shrivelled historical relic.

He only have two photographs of Rizal's older brother Paciano who rose to become a general in Aguinaldo's army. If he wished to be photographed to escape arrest during troubled times, Don Paciano was taken without his knowledge in his Cavite home before World War II, the other is a groomsmen picture taken when he was inside a coffin in 1930. By then he could not complain.

Gregoria Lopez Jaena, editor of Solidaridad, is another historical figure with only one photograph. This may be because she died young, just a month after the time. According to Jose Lopez of Iloilo, grandnephew of Lopez Jaena, the anti-clerical writer and orator was wanted to have the country his his own good. He took a boat from Iloilo to Manila and on arrival in Spain disguised as a woman. It is said that Jaena was also disguised as a woman in Barcelona in peso ready to paint him out for arrest. His disguise was so good that he even served the host without being recognized. Those some nobody asked for identification or a passport? This may be another hint why but it is an amusing story!

A similar story is told by Marcelo Agoncillo in her book "Reminiscences of the Agoncillo Family." Her father Felipe escaped arrest, not by disguising himself but rather his wife Marcela pretended to be a maid. A guardia civil knocked at their door in search of Felipe and Marcela told him that her master was not home. The guardia civil left, seeing no one in the house. Felipe then escaped to Hong Kong.

Aguinaldo's exploits as a fugitive are well known. He was hidden in the mountains of Biak-na-Bato, Cavite, Bataan, Pangasinan and Isabela. He was even reported to have escaped to Japan and China. Aguinaldo's escapades are well documented in his memoirs and in the memoirs of his aides-de-camp. Perhaps the most famous picture of Aguinaldo is the one where he is in his pajamas, sitting on a bed, with a pistol in his hand. This picture was taken by Dean Worcester, Secretary of the Interior, who raided Aguinaldo's house in Biak-na-Bato and found the general in his pajamas. Aguinaldo was not arrested but was given the opportunity to surrender his arms and pledge allegiance to the United States.

Aguinaldo's surrender was a ploy to lull the Americans into thinking that the war was over. Aguinaldo's men were ordered to surrender their guns but not their bullets. Aguinaldo's men were also ordered to surrender their uniforms but not their pants. Aguinaldo's men were also ordered to surrender their uniforms but not their pants. Aguinaldo's men were also ordered to surrender their uniforms but not their pants.

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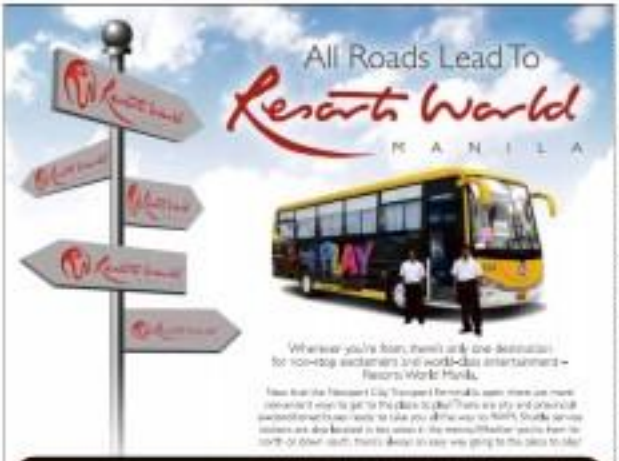

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Development, but also reforestation

IN HIS LETTER ("RP'S VULNERABILITIES," Business Outlook, 11/7/2000), Edmundo Federez supports Secretary Atienza's stance and lists Luzon's legends in "asking for assistance and support from rich and neighboring countries... to enable our country's vulnerability to adapt to climate change."

He is right in saying that the Philippines is more vulnerable to climate change than South Korea, Japan, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam because of their lower economic growth rate and lower population and poverty incidence. But our ability to adapt to climate change should be mainly dependent not on foreign money but on our own initiative to achieve economic transformation and reduce poverty... as presently the entire world is moving [illegible] through their economic activities due to forging for economies.

Climate change and poverty are "the two defining challenges of the century." Both require political will and technological knowhow, which we never had. Never suppose more is needed anything the Philippines can do to mitigate climate change. Our greatest chance is to focus on adaptive measures by reducing poverty through science and technology (S&T) and education.

We should not just zoom for a new technology from another country. We have to develop the ability to adapt and implement it. And we can only do these with changed research practices and investment [illegible] Instead of relying on Google or Yahoo, Using research for development"). Developed countries have been told: "Yes, developing countries drop a new technology into a country [illegible] this area. Whatever governments does, allied to will suffer. Mich education are still suffer to taxpayers. Without subsidies we will suffer for investment.

What can the new administration do about this?

The price of rice will continue to rise. Per can no longer afford to depend on imports to feed our people. It's time an additional protected domain is incorporated.

One average person, 0.1 acre per business, in Puglar [illegible] Thailand's which is only 1.6 tons per hectare. But Thailand has 4.7 million hectares of irrigated rice fields and we only have 1.9 million.

We have another 1.5 million hectares of irrigable farms. If they are irrigated, we have no protection double our rice production. That means we can become a net exporter instead of being the world's leading importer.

Irrigating 1.6 million hectares will cost a lot, it government funds, or of course. But the benefits will be just as enormous. Most were thousands of jobs in the government where jobs are needed most. Also, we can save on our non-building the irrigation infrastructure. Local economies will prosper and the countryside will become stronger, financially.

Long term we must learn to depend on our neighbors to feed our own people.

—ADONIS C. SIRAD, master, Makati City and president, United Opposition

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Key solution to the rice shortage

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46 bodies retrieved from mass graves

Front page A1

covering him to the government-run town in Maguindanao in the May elections.

The death toll announced yesterday included 24 retrieved on Monday in rural and remote areas in a mountainous area in the boundary of Ampatuan and Sharriff Aguak towns, an hour's drive from the Maguindanao stronghold of Datus. Ampatuan and Sharriff Aguak towns are home to the Ampatuan family and other warring clans, but they would not be reached by their long-time rivals.

"There is an urgent need to prevent and suppress the occurrence of several other incidents of lawless violence," Mr. Arroyo said in Proclamation Order No. 1946 she issued after a Cabinet meeting, according to Press Secretary Cerge Remonde.

The President directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police "to undertake such measures as may be allowed by the Constitution" in carrying out her orders.

The state of emergency will remain until lifted or withdrawn by the President, Remonde said.

No effort will be spared

Before convening the Cabinet, Mr. Arroyo told acting AFP chief of staff Lt. Gen. Hedelio Macheng to proceed to Maguindanao "to personally oversee military action against the perpetrators of these dastardly acts."

"No effort will be spared in bring justice to the victims and hold the perpetrators accountable to the full force of the law," she said.

Mr. Arroyo has also ordered an investigation of the massacre by the police, military and the National Bureau of Investigation, Remonde said.

To ensure transparency and impartiality, the Commission on Human Rights has been asked to join the inquiry, he said.

"The orders ... are very clear and unequivocal. To ensure that there is no impartial investigation into the shameful act no matter who gets hurt repeatedly considering this is something that is unconscionable. This circumstance can't be tolerated," Remonde said. "It can't be said, as it's already being insinuated, that some people have an unattributable."

Rivals belong to ruling party

Contrary to reports, Remonde clarified that Maguindanao and Ampatuan are mere members of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition.

"There has been a lot of reports already in the media seemingly invoking the administration of being partial to one side of the issue..," he said. "It is a misimpression to believe that only one party is an ally of the administration," Remonde said.

Officials were still trying to determine the exact number of people intercepted by about 100 gunmen and taken to a remote mountainous area, said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno.

"We're hopeful that some people escaped, and we're hoping to find them alive," he said.

An Inquirer reporter who was with the Maguindanao delegation when it left Bulacan said the group comprised 16 women, five drivers and 37 journalists.

Soldiers and police have found 24 bodies, including those of Maguindanao's wife, Genalyn, and his two sisters, sprawled on the ground or shot in their vehicles about five kilometers from where they were seized, said Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, PNP spokesperson, said.

The bodies retrieved yesterday by troops using shovels and bare hands were from mass graves on a grassy hillside in the remote farming village of Ismang, said Chief Supt. Josellito Casimiro, the regional PNP commander.

"They were piled on top of each other. It looked as if they were buried hurriedly," Casimiro told reporters from the scene of the massacre. "We expect more bodies from other areas."

Journalists on the scene said a backhoe, apparently used to dig the mass graves, was nowhere found with the name of Governor Ampatuan, whose body guards had been blamed by the military as being behind the massacre.

A Reuters photographer saw many of the bodies with bullet and machete wounds. Some of the dead men had their hands tied behind their backs and one of the women was pregnant.

4 speedtrauns

Maguindanao's governor said that the 57 women and children in the convoy was stopped by gunmen loyal to Andal Ampatuan Jr., a town mayor belonging to a powerful clan and his friend's fierce political rival. He is feared to name the attackers or offer other details.

"They were really planned because they had already dug a huge hole (for the bodies)," Maguindanao said.

Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., AFP spokesperson, said that troops were looking for more bodies in areas that appeared to have been recently dug up.

Police director sacked

Chief Insp. Jaburne Dilag the ousted provincial police director, has been relieved in connection with the massacre. "He is under investigation and is under restriction," Espina said.

"He was seen at the scene of the crime together with some Colpas," Espina said, referring to members of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit militia who are trained by the government to fight local insurgencies.

"The suspects are bodyguards of Ampatuan, local police and certain members of

Continued on A2

Relatives can only wait and weep

By Inquirer Mindanao

MITMUGH THEY ALREADY know the grim fate that befell their loved ones, relatives and friends of the slain journalists seemed unwilling to let the bodies until the powerful smell of decay.

Among the bodies recovered was that of local tabloid reporter Andy Teodoro, who would turned 38 years old on Nov. 30.

Also recovered earlier was the body of Napoleon Salayoy, publisher-editor of the tabloid Mindanao Gazette.

Meanwhile, Salayoy's wife, and her husband's throat was slit.

Marilu Bulfacio, reporter of Jaridico "Bong" Babinda's body was also recovered.

"All I want is the speedy dispensation of justice and maintenance for the surviving family members of my departed," said Babinda's wife Marita, who was left to take care of their seven children.

The newly-wed Myrna said she could not believe this would "happen to us while Bong was out there doing his daily (reporting) work of covering media-related events."

The staff at Manila Bulletin were also in mourning. "We are deeply saddened and we denounce this idea to press freedom," the paper's editorial statement.

"We call on the authorities concerned, both our police officials and our political leaders, to get to the bottom of this incident and ensure that justice is done."

The journalists were attacked while covering the filing of the certificate of candidacy of Esmail Mangudadatu for governor of Maguindanao province in next year's national elections.

The province has been ruled by an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Andal Ampatuan, for the past nine years and his clan is alleged to have organized the killings to ensure Mangudadatu would not register as a candidate for governor.

It emerged on Tuesday that local journalists who regularly cover Maguindanao had stayed away from the opposition territory amid concerns the Ampatuan machine may resort to violence.

Most of the reporters who were targeted had come from neighboring General Santos City. Reports from Charlie Señase, Ryan Rosauro, Julie Alipala and Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao; and AFP

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'What kind of animals are these killers?'—CHR

Front page A1

Ecuban's election lawyer in his run for the governor's post in Maguindanao. The overall winner was Andal Ampatuan Jr.

In 2007, De Lima returned to Maguindanao where, as the lawyer of then senatorial candidate Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, she questioned the results of the vote in the province. Pimentel lost the 12th and last Senate slot to Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Hotspot

"We all know the political atmosphere there. It's a hotspot. [The Ampatuans] dictate landslide votes or swing votes to mostly administration candidates. We know they fabricated or manufactured votes," De Lima said.

Because of that, the administration "owes political debts to them," she said, adding:

"We are aware that the Ampatuans are politically allied with the administration. We are also aware that they delivered landslide votes in previous elections. Because of that, they act like gods in the area. They go around with a feeling they are untouchable, or above the law."

De Lima called on Malacañang to inform the public "what is being done and the steps taken."

She wondered aloud where the 100 armed men who had carried out the killings came from.

"This only confirms that [the Ampatuans] maintain a private army. Why is this allowed? I would underscore that the local police and military fall within their sphere of influence, for the national government. They know. What have the police and military been doing all this time?"

She also noted reports that the killings were carried out from a military detachment, and that policemen were among the 100 armed men.

High-level probe

In a statement, De Lima said the Philippine National Police and the Palace "must be put in task, not only to respond to the killings, but [also] to deliver expeditious justice."

"There are several underpinnings of power and influence in Maguindanao politics that must be overcome without any delay, and the governmental response should be decisive," she said.

She called for a "high-level" investigation. "Definitely not on the local level because I don't think we can really rely on the local people. They are afraid of the influences," she said.

De Lima said the CHR had sent two investigators and a forensic expert to aid the regional office staff in the area.

The objective is to make sure there will be no whitewash in the investigation, she said.

De Lima also called on the national government to immediately disarm all private armed groups "to prevent further bloodshed."

"It is precisely because national authorities continue to be neglectful of powerwielding local officials that we find vast segments of the countryside populations cowering in fear of violence and in fear for their lives," she said.

The Ampatuans, and several other clans, for that matter, did not abuse their turbo of arms and assemble massive private armies overnight," she said.

Ignominy

On the killing of members of the media, De Lima said she would warn the Philippines to "ignominy" in the eyes of the world.

"That is what [the Ampatuans] want. They don't want us to be under media scrutiny. They are just being consistent, and they are being tolerated by the national leadership," De Lima said.

She added that previously, the presence of journalists prevented violence in Maguindanao, the exact character of the gunwielding clans, to surround atrocities, can say synonymously reprimand our national government for neglecting their duties to maintain peace in Maguindanao," De Lima said.

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Baguio City faces garbage challenge

By Maurice Malanes
Baguio City

WHEN MONEYSENSE, an independent online publication, published in April last year the "best places to live in the Philippines," Baguio City, despite its summer capital fame, was not in the top 10. It ranked 16th.

The publication listed Bacolod City as the best place to live in the country, followed by Makati, Davao, Marikina, Iloilo, Las Piñas, Pasig, San Fernando (La Union), Muntinlupa and Quezon City.

MoneySense based its ranking mainly on the Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project (PCCRP) of the Asian Institute of Management. The **ranking considered three components**: standard of living, quality of life and cost of living.

Of the three components, quality of life covered, among other things, "environment" and also included "clean air and clean roads."

A review of the solid waste management systems of Marikina and other top-ranking cities is revealing. They all **have their waste management systems in place.**

Baguio residents, on the other hand, have to bear with tons of garbage, much of which have been left uncollected for several weeks now.

The crisis began to be felt in October 2007 when officials realized that the open dump in Barangay Irisan was already full and that the city had to look for a new site to avoid a health calamity as engineered sanitary landfill.

Baguio residents would envy how wastes are managed in Marikina. The department of public service (DPS) there collects garbage three daily—at noon, 7 p.m. and 2 a.m.

A specially equipped six-wheeled truck can still call the DPS office and it immediately responds in minutes.

BAGUIO'S open dump in Barangay Irisan dips dangerously over a neighborhood in Tuba, Benguet. ELIZABETH DALAWAMPO

The same is true in Marikina, one of the most frequented venues for educational trips of local government wanting to learn about solid waste management.

Although still reeling from the heaps of wastes from September's Tropical Storm "Ondoy," Marikina's garbage collection has not been disrupted.

In 2002, a government performance audit team gave Marikina flying colors for its solid waste collection system.

It said the city had "well-defined systems and procedures" in managing its wastes. This was strengthened by "employing ordinances to implement ordinances on the maintenance of physical cleanliness and sanitation, instilling discipline and compelling community participation."

Not far from Baguio is San Fernando in La Union, which inaugurated in December 2008 a P160-million landfill after starting construction in 2005.

The World Bank, which funded the project, said the 18.7-hectare facility was a model for small landfills.

Institutionalization

Bacolod, Marikina and San Fernando all have ordinances to support Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000). But they all have graduated from the information and education campaign (IEC) stage and have since tackled down to work to implement their ordinances and policies on waste management.

Their programs have become institutionalized as part of the communities' way of life.

Every Monday and Thursday in Marikina, green-painted trucks collect biodegradable wastes, which households must properly label and tie with something green.

Every Wednesday, pink-colored trucks also collect nonbiodegradables, which households must tie with something pink. Improperly labeled wastes won't be collected.

Biodegradable wastes are composted for fertilizer. The nonbiodegradables are taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) for segregation. Plastics and bottles are taken to a "buy-back center."

Policy implementation is such a serious business that the city government allocates the funds and resources to make policies work.

Marikina is also in concerted abuse in solid waste management efficiency that it has installed a mechanism by which residents can give feedback, complaints and suggestions.

Par to part, San Fernando area different and labeled waste segregation receptacles for different types of garbage.

It has well-established village-based MRFs, where wastes are segregated. One of these is in Lingsat village, which was given a national award for its efficient solid waste management in 2004.

Schools have also established solid waste management systems.

As unrelenting support to the village, the city government regularly trains village officials on Waste Analysis and Characterization Survey (WACS) to help local officials determine the total weights and volume of waste disposed of daily. Data from the survey guide local officials in making and implementing policies.

The city government continues to train village officials on how to make ordinances and solid waste plans, and how to compose garbage fees, organize management teams, and monitor and evaluate projects and programs on wastes.

In contrast, Baguio Councilor Fred Bagbagan said the council had filed resolutions directing the city government to focus on developing an ecological landfill and MRFs. Three of these, he said, took off.

Hope for Baguio

Amid public ire and warnings from the health department about possible diseases from uncollected garbage, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. recently ordered the collection of garbage in villages.

The garbage would be disposed of at the already full Irisan dump. From there, it will be hauled to a landfill in Capas, Tarlac, after the city council allotted P25 million for this.

Bautista said he would declare the city's right over the whole 7.5 hectares occupied by the dump, noting that 2.5 hectares of it were being occupied by squatters.

If reclaimed, he said the dump could still accommodate the city's garbage, estimated at 500 tons daily, while long-term alternatives are being sought.

But a more strategic solution may yet lie in neighboring Sublim town, also in Benguet.

At least 11 owners have offered to sell a 220,221-square-meter (22.02-hectare) lot for Baguio's engineered sanitary landfill. The proposed landfill can be used for 30 to 40 years.

"With proper park and determination, negotiation and all the ugly-grit-in-the-process-of-the-proposed landfill can be done **in a month,**" said Julius Mandapat, a civil engineer who helped build engineered sanitary landfills, dikes, parks and an airport in the United States in the 1980s.

Mandapat said solid waste management must be part of short-term and strategic urban planning.

"The challenge is how to make urban planning respond to the needs of a growing city and this needs a mix of technical expertise and political will," he said.

Play therapy for child survivors

By Elmar Kristian Dungey
Bogus, Benguet

PLAY THERAPY IS A time-tested tool used by psychologists and social workers to ease the trauma of children victimized by calamity or violence.

But in the training town of Bogus in Benguet, where a community was buried by a massive landslide on Oct. 8, social workers and the other setters of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) sought children games about how to survive future disasters.

Eva Rhei Salvador, a CCP department manager for cultural resources and communication services, said the children quickly related to the games, enabling psychologists to assess their mental condition.

Games, drawing exercises and **dramatic activities to purchase** household crafts allow them to express themselves and relieve subconscious fears, said Marlene de Castro, executive director of the Bogus Center for Young Adults (BCYA).

Psychiatrists and psychologists refer symptoms of trauma, because people who fail to manifest emotional dysfunctions "grow worse over time and could become problems for society."

De Castro said nongovernment organizations pushing for bodies that construction laws had been started by local governments and nongovernment organizations responded to children affected by the recent typhoons and landslides.

Trauma counseling for children has never happened in such massive scale before, she said, even in the aftermath of the July 1990 earthquake that devastated Baguio.

"There was a psychological counseling station for quake victims in 1990, but it did not involve this much media attention," she said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said most of last month's child-centered initiatives were led by private organizations and were centered through community leaders.

These activities were not documented in the consolidated reports of the Sectoral Disaster Coordinating Council. But the DSWD participated in at least two child trauma exercises, partnered with the CCP in Barangay Bayagan in La Trinidad town, in Barangay Lamera in Bogus, and in Tublay town.

Little Ribengan in Barangay Pugata, La Trinidad, has received more media attention than other typhoon-hit areas because its children were among the 77 who died when a landslide unleashed by rains slammed by Tropical Depression "Pepeng" buried a large section of the community.

At least 25 people were killed in another landslide in Bayagan.

Compared to these Benguet villages, Eugene's fatalities are small because the town lost only 12 lives. But children of Lucanin are always reminded about those deaths every time they wake up to a 70-meter deep chasm left by the landslide.

The tension set through most of the neighborhood, making the Lucanin Elementary School grounds only a few meters. Lessons inside stop as stimulated open air noise and is populated by small-scale miners and their families.

Government geologists have anticipated that tension would occur on the other side of the mountain, said Abner Villanueva, spokesperson of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in the Cordillera.

"We one see the mountain toppling over Lucanin. Relocation has become the only solution for the displaced community because even the school faces the risk of another landslide," Villanueva said.

Students must no hike and cross the eroded debris that buried their houses so they can attend classes.

Those who lost relatives have not been attending classes, said Beverly Medanes, a Grade 6 teacher.

"Some pupils became silent. Now, they don't talk much. Before, they were cheerful," she said.

Normal classes are also disrupted every time a downpour occurs. "When it rains, we let the children go home early for their own safety," Medanes said.

The art sessions conducted by the CCP volunteers detected the same child behaviors from the students who attended the therapy sessions.

"Some children view their misfortunes as *parusa* (punishment) and that somehow it's their fault. If they cannot rationalize, they become restless," Salvador said.

To draw their interest, the CCP crew invited them to join a game of "Bahay, Bata, Bagay (house, children and things)."

Children who do not like to participate in the parlor games may suffer from psychological trauma, Salvador said. Most of the games are safety drills in disguise, she said.

But "Bahay, Bata, Bagay," the children form rooms of chores and are made to form the shape of items called out by a facilitator.

Two members of each team must form a *sampiro*, enclosing the third member who is considered between them.

When the CCP volunteer shouts "Bahay," the "houses" must run to find a new occupant. The race shifts when the facilitator shouts "Bata" because the occupant must now move to find a new "house."

If the facilitator shouts "Bagay," the commotion break up to pair up with their drills. This game teaches children about escaping their previous or mind during emergencies, said Salvador.

It's the same rationale for the "The Bear is Sliding." Depending on the number called out by the facilitator, the children must race and form groups. Groups which exceed or are short of the number called out by the facilitator are eliminated.

"The games were helpful, we know what to do next time disaster strikes," said Bryan Cosseova, 13, who was left homeless by the massive landslides. With a report from Vincent Cabreza

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QUIAMBAO, FORBES LAW OFFICE

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Burgonia

Bishop: Casino broke deal with Church

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA ARCHbishop Paciano Aniceto assailed the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for reneging on a promise made in 1997 that it would not put up a casino anywhere, except for two sites, in the province.

Aniceto descended the immediate descent of a casino that Pagcor and the Blue Chip Gaming and Leisure Corp. (Blue Chip) have begun operating at the King's Royal Hotel and Leisure Park in Bacolor, a town at the boundary of this Pampanga capital, on Oct. 13.

It opened 16 months after the solon councilors approved the project through Resolution No. 71.

Aniceto said the understanding that Olongapo would remain casino-free was reached after he opposed the proposal of then Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and some Pampanga congressmen to host casinos in Pinkuleta village.

"I have always been cautious. They [Lapid and some representatives] approached me during the labor period. They said this [casino in Dinkuleta] will generate a lot of funds. I told them this is not the way to achieve the recovery of Pampanga," Aniceto said.

Labor flows and Mr. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 buried almost all 20 towns and two cities in Pampanga, worsening floods until now.

"We [the archdiocese] have an unwritten agreement with the previous governor [Lapid] and Pagcor that casinos would be confined only in Clark and in the old Pagcor building in [Barangay Balibago in Angeles City]," Aniceto told reporters on Monday.

Jose Tello, Pagcor representative in Pampanga, did not reply to calls and text messages seeking Pagcor reaction.

"The economy should be based on solid principles that respect our human dignity that is based on real human investment that creates wealth for the common good and not on the fickle and unpredictable whims of gambling addicts," Aniceto said.

"The economy should be based on real investment and being creative in putting up businesses that are really respectful of our being good citizens," Aniceto said.

In Sunday's Mass, the archbishop exercised the canon in Bacolor, mentioning for the first time the 1997 agreement with Lapid and Pagcor.

Asked by the bojazon showed that Lapid, now a senator, had no hand in the Bacolor casino plan.

Also, Gov. Eddie Panlilio, Senate Efraim Genuino, Pagcor chair and chief executive officer, on Oct. 15 informing him that the stakes was established "without the knowledge and authorization of the provincial government."

An inquirer review of minutes of regular sessions held by the Bacolor council from Jan. 29 to June 24, 2008 showed barely any mention of the casino.

Councilor Jonnie Manes, who questioned the distance between the school and the casino, was absent with two others when the resolution was passed.

Also, the name of Blue Chip did not appear in any of the minutes of the regular sessions. The resolution referred to a "WP-Club by the Pagcor or the King's Royal Hotel, Bacolor, Pampanga."

Except for Tello, no Blue Chip official faced the council or to two supposed public hearings.

On Jan. 21, 2008 letter by Municipal Tallung, the hotel's owners to Mayor Romeo Dungca, showed it was Cadung who "[signified] my intent of putting up a Pagcor Club which includes slot machines and poker tables within the vicinity of the King's Royal Hotel and Leisure Park, that is concerning the operation function/activities in a querying hall." Dometry Dejjen, Inquirer Central Luzon

ARCHBISHOP Aniceto celebrating Mass. PHOTO BY JIGSAW QUIAMBAO/CONTRIBUTOR

Church group joins calls to open polls' 'source code'

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) in Northern Mindanao has joined the call for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to make public the source code of the program used in the machines that will be used in the 2010 elections.

PCPR, an organization of priests, ministers and church workers, said until the source code is made public, the Comelec cannot that there would be honest and impartial automated elections.

Fr. Antonio Alfon, PCPR chair for Northern Mindanao, said making public the source code was important because it would help allay fears that the automated election system (AES) would be manipulated.

"Until now, we are not sure if the system is without fault unless we see the source code," Alfon said by phone.

A source code is a set of human readable computer programming instructions.

"We are one with CenPEG (Center for People Empowerment in Governance) in calling for the immediate public release of the AES source code if only to assure voters of credible and transparent national election," Alfon said.

He also said the Comelec's ruling in her unanimously manage the certification authority (CA) for the 2010 national election's canvassing and data transmission was irregular.

CA is the discovery of passwords and "other users," who will be authorized to keep both the public and private key codes for the AES.

"What this means is that Comelec, whether unwittingly or otherwise, has assumed a foreign private company full control of the elections—the very essence of our national sovereignty," Alfon said.

In an earlier study conducted by CenPEG entitled "AES 2010 Risky Study," it was revealed that there were at least 38 weaknesses in the whole AES process.

"These phases in the AES process have been deemed vulnerable because these are where either their cheating can take place or undetected errors of procedure and consistently plus [could] lead to failure of elections," a source CenPEG statement read. Florante Corrales, Inquirer Mindanao

Top Quezon poll exec tells bets: Remove streamers

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP election official in Quezon province has reminded local politicians here to remove banners, posters and streamers bearing their names after filing their certificates of candidacy (CoCs).

"Once a politician filed the certificate of candidacy, he or she is responsible for his or her campaign materials and should be in charge of disqualification," lawyer Melben Enriquez, head of the Commission on Election Operations, said in an interview Monday.

In a report, Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento urged candidates in the 2010 elections to refrain from promoting themselves indirectly through various means, like the use of tarpaulins and streamers that bear their faces and names on them.

The Supreme Court ruled on Sept. 11 that a candidate could be disqualified for campaigning right after the filing of his CoC.

Enriquez said the Comelec would send notices to candidates who have propaganda materials in public after filing a CoC. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Tourism execs list CamSur, Mayon, Donsol as top sites

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Tourism (DOT) regional office in Bicol has named the top three growth areas for Bicol tourism in the Camarines Sur Water Sports Complex (CWSC), Mayon Volcano in Albay and Donsol, Sorsogon, for its whole duration.

Maria Cleofina Bonavella, tourism Bicol regional director, said many other areas in the region are being developed for tourism.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis "Lray" Villafuerte, whose province was designated as a special tourism zone, had made a bold step in building the CWSC in 2005 in Pili town. It is now the top tourist attraction in the region.

With the CWSC already a major tourist destination in the region, Naga City has become a takeoff point for other tourist destinations in the province, like the world-famous Caramoan, site of the French version of the TV reality series "Survivor."

Bonavella quoted a text message from Carina Escudero of Sorsogon City as confirming the presence of whale sharks, the world's biggest fish, in Donsol town.

She said the text message was sent to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda who, in turn, alerted her about the good news.

Bonavella said the tourism department, tour operators, resorters and other tourist stakeholders had been working to expand the tourist abroad.

"We are hopeful that Bicol region will become a leading foreign tourist destination," she said. Roy M. Rimod, Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE CWC, a watersports park in Camarines Sur, has emerged as the top tourist attraction in the Bicol region.

NEWSBRIEFS

CAMP VICENTE LIM

Gangs clash; 1 dead

A SUSPECTED gang member was killed and two others were injured after a gunfight between two groups believed to be gun-for-hire syndicates in Biñan, Laguna last Monday, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Marcelito Labadan, Laguna police director, said Erwin del Rosario, allegedly leader of a gun-for-hire syndicate, was killed during the clash.

Police arrested two other suspected syndicate members identified as Zaldy Ice Tenay, who belonged to Del Rosario's group, and Jinky Dascalzo, from the other gun syndicate, said Labadan.

Five to six more were involved in the clash, said Supt. Joel Pareño, Biñan police chief. Police are tracking the other suspects.

Several gunshots were first heard by policemen on patrol at around 10:45 p.m. in Barangay San Vicente in Biñan town, said Chief Supt. Perfecto Palad, Calabarzon regional police director.

When police arrived, one group immediately withdrew toward San Pedro Road while the other, allegedly headed by Del Rosario, fled in the opposite direction, said Palad.

Police said Del Rosario died on the spot while two other suspects suffered gunshot wounds.

Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Most wanted falls

A ROBBERY and murder suspect was killed in a clash with police on Monday in Cavite, a police official said.

Senior Supt. Alfredo Corpus, Cavite police director, said in a text message that suspect Rolando Bulaon was killed when he tried to resist arrest in Barangay Tejero in General Trias town.

Bulaon was shot in the head. He was considered the most wanted person in Cavite's third and is wanted for a string of cases including robbery with homicide and rape.

Marlon Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

EVENTS

Gordon burial today

AMO (A. Jaco) Gordon, who died last Dec. 17, will be buried today Nov. 25, at the Gordon Memorial Park in Olongapo City.

Her remains lie at the Olongapo City Convention Center where Mass will be held in her honor at noon today.

Necrological rites were held last night at the Olongapo City Convention Center.

She will be buried at the same area where her husband, former mayor and the "Father of Olongapo City" James L. Gordon, is also buried.

Jennifer, the mother of Sen. Richard J. Gordon, was recognized both locally and internationally for her service to orphaned and abandoned Amerasian children, and was a recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Pearl S. Buck International Woman of the Year Award in 1982.

BATANGAS CITY

3 NPA rebels charged

POLICE yesterday filed charges of illegal possession of firearms against three members of the New People's Army who were arrested on Monday in Taysan, Batangas.

Members of the 201st Philippine Air Force, the Regional Intelligence Division and Taysan police arrested the three, according to Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolata Palad, Calabarzon regional police chief.

Palad identified the suspects as Billy Dalerino, alias "Ka Empoy", Sonny Bugallo alias "Ka Miguel," and Charlie Dayao, alias "Ka Sandro."

Police said they seized various firearms and 14 rounds of ammunition, explosives, grenades, cellular phones and communist documents from the three.

Lt. Col. Vincent Incognito, commander of the 730 Combat Group of the Philippine Air Force, said the three were arrested in a military campaign to stop NPA "extortion."

Marvin Dike Lozada and Dalila Wahiri Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

OPERATORS DEFY ATIENZA

DENR order futile as quarrying goes on

LUCENA CITY—QUARRYING in Sariaya, Quezon, continues despite an order issued by Environment Secretary Lito Atienza last week, an environmentalist group said Tuesday.

Lawyer Sheila de Leon, Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog (TK-ST) head, said during an inspection Monday of several Sariaya villages, mining operations continued unabated as if there was no order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Though we spotted some heavy equipment lying moved out to some quarry sites, apparently in submission to the DENR order, these were still lots of quarry operations going on," De Leon told the reporter.

The inspection team was composed of representatives from TK-ST, Sariaya environment office, DENR-Quezon, Saint Joseph Academy and a local religious organization.

"The quarry operations are much worse today compared to before and after the first moratorium order issued by the DENR in 2004. That's why we're disappointed with the new moratorium order," said De Leon.

The top official of the DENR in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) region warned illegal quarry operators in Sariaya that they faced the full force of the law if they defy the stop order.

"We're just completing the composition of the team that would monitor if the quarry operations have complied with Secretary Atienza's order. As soon as we're ready we will survey down on Sariaya to forcibly stop the quarrying activities," said Nilo Tayag, DENR Calabarzon chief.

On Nov. 15, Atienza ordered a stop to all quarry operations in Sariaya based on complaints from worried residents.

Atienza ordered the creation of a team composed of representatives from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Forest Management Bureau and DENR provincial office in Quezon to make an inventory of quarry operations and prepare an impact assessment report detailing the damages that these operations bring.

Atienza ordered the team to see if the quarry operators were complying with environmental laws.

De Leon said the group also discovered that quarrying occurs inland and not on riverbeds as mandated by the town flood control program.

Francisco Sevilla Jr., vice chair of the Provincial Mining Regulatory Board, claimed that under the administration of Gov. Rafael Nantes, "no application for inland quarry is being processed." **Delfin Z. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon**

ILLEGAL quarry operators find this site, along Mt. Banahaw in Sariaya, Quezon, a good source of rocks and other materials for construction. The quarrying, however, endangers communities near the site.

Group makes T-shirts for Noynoy fund drive

BAGUIO CITY—A GROUP supporting the presidential bid of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III has launched a fund-raising drive in Benguet, printed only with yellow shirts and no billboards.

Lawyer Alexander Lacson, chair of TuloyPinoy Movement, said the volunteers have become conscious about excessive campaign spending so they are raising money from non-traditional sources to keep Aquino's campaign finances still within the limits set by law.

Lacson said they have embarked on a national fund drive to accept amounts as small as P1 "from the very poor," inspired by the success of a similar strategy that made the late Corazon the United States' first black president.

Lacson said the group has yet to study the effects of a 5-percent tax on all campaign contributions.

Before he resigned, former revenue commissioner Jose Espiritu III ruled on color sending a 5-percent withholding tax on campaign expenses that the agency proposes would raise P1.5 billion.

"Money is a tricky issue," Lacson said. He said data in the reason TuloyPinoy focused on governing "non-corporate" individuals and TuloyPinoy is not part of the Liberal Party, which was expected to attract bigger donors.

TuloyPinoy has been selling shirts marked with the movement's name for P140 each and yellow wristbands for P30 each. The shirts and wristbands were imported by volunteers.

The income would serve as seed money to fund the production of more campaign materials, said Jose Maria Montelibano, one of TuloyPinoy's convenors.

"It's up to these volunteers what materials they want to use, from car stickers to even flambla paper," Montelibano said.

"These [community-based fund drives are] more people-oriented. We want them to make a claim. This is what we said political boycotts [campaigning]," Lacson said.

"By making a stand...a topic"—and Dyl challenging Noynoy Aquino to run for president, we have already taken the initial steps to building a better Philippines," the group's website said.

The group plans to draw the support of 42,000 villages nationwide.

It started touring the provinces last month. Baguio and the capital of Benguet were their fifth stop in Northern Luzon this week. "This is not a movement [done] and Montelibano, because people already have made their choices known.

Lacson said TuloyPinoy can claim part of the credit in Aquino's decision to run for president. On Aug. 26, the group set up a pillow theme in front of the Aquino house on Times Street in Quezon City. **Reuben Cellana, Inquirer Northern Luzon**

LOCAL communities, who make up the advocacy group TuloyPinoy, manufactured their own wristbands, which they sell for P150 apiece to help finance the campaign of aspiring president Noynoy Aquino. They also sell P140 T-shirts and campaign buttons.

Binay says LGUs hostages to IRA, but spend only 18% of RP income

By Vicente Lubrin
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—THE strengthening of local governments could be key to the development and progress of the country, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said on Friday.

Binay, who was in Tagbilaran City on Friday to inform officials of the newly-created Bay Boards of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, believed that "the growth and progress of the Philippines could be hastened through local governments."

One plus one

"Simply stated, if the barangay (village) is progressive, the town or city would be progressive. If the town or city is progressive, the province is also progressive. If the provinces is progressive, the whole country will be progressive," he said.

Binay maintained that there was a need to maximize decentralization.

He said in progressive nations, 70 percent of total expenditures come from local governments and only 30 percent come from the national government.

He said 82 percent of expenses are incurred by the national government while local governments incur only 18 percent.

IRA dependent

An advocate of strong local government through greater autonomy, he said the government was too "centralized," with 80-90 percent of local governments in the country heavily dependent on IRA.

Binay, president of the United Opposition (UNO), said if elected as vice president, he would focus on more decentralization of local governments.

He said he would not be merely a "spare tire" to whoever will become president.

Binay has teamed up with pardoned plunder convict Joseph Estrada, who is running for a new term as president after failing to complete his term when he was ousted on corruption charges.

Estrada was eventually convicted by the Sandiganbayan and sentenced to life in prison but was pardoned quickly by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

RP starts talks for climate change pay

BAGUIO CITY—THE PHILIPpine government is negotiating with the United States and other industrialized countries for compensation on behalf of victims killed or left homeless by calamities attributed to global warming.

Philippine representatives have begun to push the argument that rich countries were responsible for the erratic weather because of their inability to stop or reduce the greenhouse gases emitted by their respective industries, a top government official said here on Monday.

Dr. Stephen Yumul Jr., undersecretary for research of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), said the Philippines's 26-member delegation has been discussing compensation on the subject of intense climate change talks on the progress made by the 2009 Kyoto Protocol.

Yumul addressed a climate change forum sponsored by the University of the Philippines National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) at UP Diliman here.

The negotiation is on its initial stage, he said, and the Philippine government has not yet quantified how much it wants from rich countries for calamities triggered by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in September and Typhoon "Pepeng" in October.

"The US immediately reacted when a government official said several calamities and [Ondoy and Pepeng] were not [consequences of] climate change at a Senate hearing on climate change," he said.

"This is why [government] has made the conscious effort [to assess that] global warming is real and is harming the country," Yumul said.

The government began talks early this year with the United States, which declined to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

The document is an international agreement that sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to the website of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Yumul said many rich countries have resorted to buying "carbon credits" from poorer nations to fulfill their UNFCCC obligations without disrupting their economies.

The UNFCCC allows developed nations to offset poor countries' funds for climate change programs. The funds are translated into "carbon credits" to offset the amount of greenhouse gas that rich countries are required to curb before 2012.

Yumul said "carbon credits" have become the third most traded currency in the world, next to the American dollar and gold.

"But the Philippines does not want sell. It wants compensation," he said.

"We owe death to Japan, 17 die in the Philippines [because] they have better resources for evacuating people or building better dikes," Yumul said. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

> 'For one death in Japan, 17 die in the Philippines [because] they have better resources for evacuating people or building better dikes...'

'Bodies were piled on top of each other'

SAMAL, MAGUINDANAO— Survivors of dogwatch pierced the burning villages of farming yesterday as police pulled bodies from a mass grave, unearthing one of the most brutal political killings in Philippine history.

A woman identified by police as the widow of murdered local broadcast journalist Napoleon Salapuay stepped up, tears swelling in her eyes and quaking, to claim one of the bullet-riddled cadavers.

Dozens of other people stood among the lush green farmland in somber hushing starting at the mounds of freshly dug dirt, as a pair of mechanical diggers labored at the reddish clay on a hillside in search of more bodies.

The victims had been dumped in the hastily dug graves on Monday, shortly after gunmen allegedly linked to a local political clan shot dead at least 46 of them in remote clearings with relief police said were 56 to assault rifles.

They were among a small party of mostly female opposition politicians and a large group of accompanying journalists who were abducted on Monday morning as they continued on a trip to register for next year's national elections.

Several hours after the abduction, the military found the victims' six vehicle convoy just off the lonely unpaved road of Sitio Masalay along with 22 bodies that had been dumped close by.

A mechanical digger that undertakes suspected mass burials was used to make the mass graves was also still there.

It had the name "Isulod Ampatuan Inc" painted on it. Ampatuan is the governor of Maguindanao province who another clan has say is suspected of organizing the massacre.

Police yesterday said that some of the female victims had their breasts gunmen smeared and that investigations were being carried to determine if any had been raped before being killed.

Yesterday, with the sunset already in shock at the magnitude of the massacre, investigators found two more graves within 20 meters of each other, with 17 bodies in just one of them.

"They were piled on top of each other. It looked as if they were buried hastily," said the regional police commander, Chief Supt. Josellon Ledesma.

Altogether, 29 bodies were recovered yesterday, bringing the confirmed death toll to 46.

An AFP journalist on the scene said the corpses were found under the armed seven rooms of dirt, and were already starting to smell in the tropical heat. AFP

Brutal culture of guns, greed, money

THE MASSACRE OF MORE THAN 40 PEOple in Maguindanao province has exposed a brutal culture of guns, greed and money that has poisoned the nation's political system for decades, experts said on Tuesday.

The murders on Monday are feared to be only the first of many killings ahead of next year's national elections, when posts from village chiefs to president will be up for grabs.

"This explosion of violence arises whenever there is an election," said Jasmin Gesue, one of the convenors of the Young Moro Professionals, a group helping the government to peace talks with Moro rebels in Mindanao.

Indeed, dozens of people are killed each election season in the country.

Local political warlords have for generations competed for political power and the accompanying business riches that governments post offer.

These clans are well-known to control private armies, who carry out massacres and extrajudicial against rivals.

The proliferation of over 1.1 million unlicensed firearms, most of them in the hands of rebel groups or paramilitaries, contribute to the general lawlessness in many remote areas, according to police.

Volatile region

In turn high-profile murders in the run-up to congressional elections in 2007, a member of Congress from a northern province was gunned down by an assassin allegedly hired by his rival on the steps of a Roman Catholic Church while attending a wedding.

All in all, 121 people were killed in that campaign season, according to national police statistics, slightly lower than the 146 who died in the 2004 national election.

But while the problem plagues other areas of the country, experts say Maguindanao and other parts of Mindanao—where a Muslim insurgency has raged for decades—are particularly volatile.

"Politics in Mindanao is about ownership of power. Public office is perceived as a personal, dynastic thing—a birth right, and they would spill blood for it," Gesue said.

More bloodshed feared

Gesue said she expected more evidence to the fallout of Monday's massacre, with relatives of those killed expected in coming weeks to retaliate, killed rivals in the local dispute.

"Retaliation is a natural course of events," she said.

Akhmad Syed Linga, executive director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies also has drawn research on clan fighting, said the phenomenon further compelled the Moro insurgency that has claimed more than 120,000 lives since the 1970s.

"Some rido are sustained for generations," Lingo said. "The retaliation and counter-retaliation involve the whole family or clan."

Lack of justice

The senseless killings, Lingo said, are the "consequence of the absence of justice" for a perceived wrong.

"Among Muslims the value of justice is strong to the extent that it becomes a duty for family members to work for justice and reject oppression," he said.

Amnesty International used the killings and the culture of impunity that surrounds them to call for the government to "urgently" disarm militias and bring those responsible to justice.

"The authorities must act swiftly to ensure that those responsible for this appalling crime are brought to justice," said Sam Zarifi, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific director. AFP

ONE MORE VICTIM Using a backhoe, authorities recover another victim from a shallow grave at the site of the massacre in Maguindanao. JEROME ASHLEY DELOS SANTOS

Media killings worst in the world

THE FINAL HUMILIATION IN THE brutal, election-related killings in Maguindanao province was still being determined as of Tuesday night. Several journalists were believed to be among the dead, making the massacre one of the deadliest single events for the press in memory. Here are some other deadly episodes as recorded by the Committee to Protect Journalists:

- On Dec. 12, 2008, 11 employees of 40 Shabiliya television were killed in an attack on the station's Baghdad studios. Five of the victims were journalists, and six were media support workers.
- On Nov. 29, 1997, five journalists for Rwanda Television, or RTV, were killed by a car bomb while on assignment in Hyderabad, India.
- On Oct. 3, 1993, four journalists died during a gun battle between communist bandleaders and Russian special forces over control of Ostankino Television Center in Moscow. (Ten others died during fighting at parliament on Oct. 3 and 4, 1993.)
- At many as three journalists were killed in several other episodes, the most notable coming on May 8, 1999, when a Nato air strike hit the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. Committee to Protect Journalists

Warring clans were political allies

From page A1

province, where the Ampatuans have ruled unchallenged for years.

The ties that had bound the two clans began to fray in May this year when rift spread that Bulsan Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu would run for governor of Maguindanao in next May's elections.

That seemed like a direct challenge on the Ampatuans' hold on power.

The Ampatuans and the Mangudadatus are both political allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In the 2004 presidential election, Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Sr., the patriarch of the clan, proved his worth to Ms Arroyo by delivering votes in massive numbers for her, helping her defeat the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., amid charges of fraud.

In some towns, Poe ended up with zero votes.

In the 2007 elections, despite being pummeled by the opposition in many areas in the country, Ms Arroyo's Team Unity senatorial candidates routed the opposition in Maguindanao.

In all, the Ampatuan family controls 18 of Maguindanao's 29 towns.

Explaining his political longevity, Ampatuan Sr once said in an interview: "It's because of popular support."

Days before Christmas in 2007, he created a sensation at the Davao Aquino International Airport when, seeing off a son, he handed 10,000 each to cash to airport workers.

Descendants of Arabia clan

Descended from the Shariff clan that reigned over the old Andrin, the Ampatuans entered Philippine politics in the 1970s when Datu Mamunggaya Ampatuan, son of a 19th century Ampatuan patriarch, served as political adviser to his brother-in-law, Datun Ugalingan Piang, who became member of the Commonwealth Assembly.

He later also served as political adviser to his father in-law, Datu Piang Tee, a member of the Commonwealth Assembly.

Mamunggaya, after whom a Maguindanao town was named, was the younger brother of Sindi Hassan, the father of Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr.

Of Mamunggaya's siblings, two others became mayor of Maguindanao (now Shariff Aguak)—Datu Akilan and Datu Pinagayao, who served in the administrations of Presidents Ramon Magsaysay, Carlos Garcia, Diosdado Macapagal and Ferdinand Marcos.

Other Ampatuans

Datu Jihak Ampatuan, son of Mamunggaya, was mayor of Datu Piang town in the 1970s.

His brother Datu Shadi was municipal councilor of the said town. Both were members of the Liberal Party that was formidable at the first Macapagal presidency. Datu Jihak's son, Zaw Ampatuan, later became energy undersecretary under Ms Arroyo.

Zaid's brother Yakub is a trustee of Sajahatera town.

Elected governor

In 2002, one of the elder Ampatuan's sons figured in a shooting incident in Cotabato City and was killed. Two days later, another son, Datu Saudi, was killed, along with 14 of his companions and supporters, in a roadside bomb attack in his town.

The Ampatuan family is often described as "traditionalist," adhering, as it is said, to seniority in bloodline in matters of leadership selection.

After 10 years of being mobilized as mayor and vice mayor of his town, Ampatuan Sr aimed for the gubernatorial post in 2001.

Supported by the Mangudadatus, he handily beat then incumbent Gov. Zacaria Candao.

Mangudadatus' reign

With their political influence, the Ampatuan family backed the ascension of many towns mined other their forebears—Datu Mamunggaya, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Datu Sadiko, or even children, Datu Hadjie, Datu Saudi, and Datu Unsay, whom Datu Andal Ampatuan Jr is a mayor.

In September 2005, another son of Ampatuan Sr., Zaldy, supported the governorship of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (armed), beating known regional political figures, including the late Lanao del Sur Gov. Mahid Mutilan.

The Mangudadatus started their ascension in Maguindanao politics in 1986 during the regular administration when the late Ismael Mangudadatu, Datu Pax Mangudadatu was appointed mayor of Buluan, Maguindanao.

Close friends

At some point, the Ampatuan and Mangudadatu clans were close to each other.

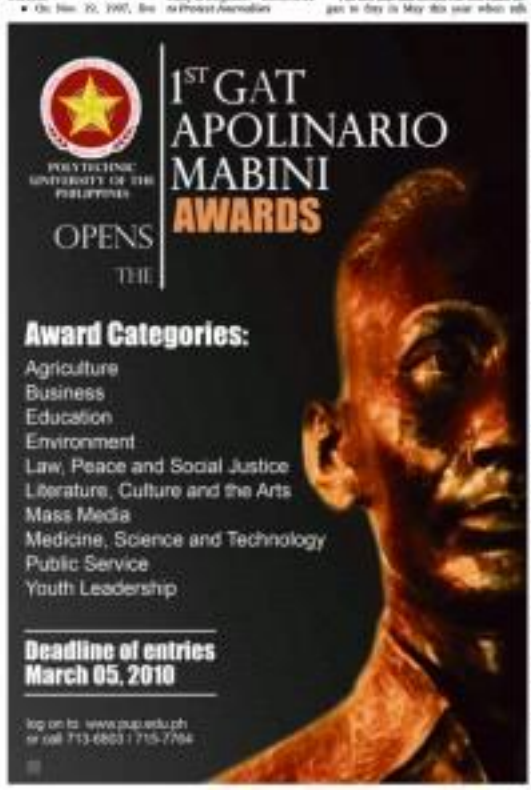
It was said that before he died of illness, Datu Pax left his politician-children under the care and tutelage of the elder Ampatuan. The two old men had been very close friends.

A rift developed following rumors that former Mangudadatu would run for governor in 2010.

Their ties snapped when the Mangudadatus purportedly blocked the creation of Ashan municipality to be carved from the towns that they control in the south-eastern tip of the province. It was said that the proposed town did not meet the population criteria required by law.

The name Ashan apparently comes from the name of the deceased father of Sajid Pendatun, a former police provincial commander said to be loyal to the elder Ampatuan and his son Andal II.

In July this year, an Ashan relative was killed by armed men. Police have detained some Mangudadatu followers. Inquirer Mindanao



Malacañang distances itself from mass murder

By Christine F. Esguerra

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY distanced itself from the mass murder in Maguindanao, saying it was "no incident between two families in Midsayap."

"We cannot be affected by this... this is something to do with President Macapagal-Arroyo at the administration," Leonel Pajarillo, Mr Arroyo's deputy spokesperson, told reporters.

Asked if the administration had the political will to punish a close ally implicated in the case involved in the killings, Pajarillo said: "If the public would know that we are sincere and that we are doing our best to give justice to the victims, I think that would reinforce us in case there would be impressions later on."

The President has feared her self in the eye of the storm owing to her close ties with Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and his family, who are believed responsible for the massacre on Monday of political rivals, lawyers and journalists.

Presidential adviser for cabinet Cerilles, her adviser on political affairs, Mr Arroyo has presented.

ly assured the Maguindanao family that justice would be served.

She made the promise during emotional phone calls with Italian Regional Gov. Dato Mangudadatu and Vice Mayor Ismael Mangudadatu of Buluan, Maguindanao, soon after the massacre, Claudio told reporters.

"Disappointment is an understatement," he said. "There is pain all over. The families of the victims are crying for justice. We cry with them. We weep with them. We share the pain, especially because of the victims' concerned are friends and members of the same political party."

Asked if the Palace was willing to cover for with the suspensions to case they were proven guilty, Claudio said: "You are be sure that politics will not get in the way. Justice will be served and the perpetrators of this crime will not go unpunished."

Her 'creation'

Former senatorial candidate Ampatuan, "Kokoy" Unsayed El yesterday said Mr. Ampatuan was a "creation" of Ms Arroyo.

"That is really an acid one for her," Unsayed told the reporters.

"What's more important? The debt of gratitude because you are President because of their support, or the lives of the Filipino people and justice for those who lost their lives senselessly?"

Unsayed said Ms Arroyo owed a lot to the Ampatuans, particularly in the 2004 presidential election when they delivered the votes for her in the province over opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

Three years later in the senatorial race, Maguindanao delivered a controversial 12-0 sweep for the administration's Team Unity ticket.

Unsayed said that with such incidents, the Ampatuans could always tell Ms Arroyo: "You owe us big time."

'Canvassed' votes

In 2007, Sovereign Ampatuan Sr. explained the 12-0 sweep as the product of "canvassed" votes in Maguindanao—meaning, voters obeyed whatever their leaders told them to vote for.

But Unsayed said it was more of a case of "commandeered" votes, citing undue ballot boxes and faked ballots.

"The Ampatuans[have absolute control over the province, not out of respect but due to fear," he said.

Unsayed is still recovering the 12th and final slot in the 2007 senatorial race won by Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri. In Maguindanao alone that year, Unsayed said he got 67,000 votes against Zubiri's 195,000.

Asked how the Ampatuans supposedly managed to control elections in the province, Unsayed said: "That remains the biggest mystery because no witness has ever dared come out."

"How we know why—it's dangerous," he said, citing the mass murder.

But the administration cannot just ignore the massacre purportedly masterminded by its political ally, Unsayed said. "This is a crime inviting an insult."

No sacred cows

But Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said "no one will be untouchable in this case."

He sought to douse suspicion that the administration might hold its punches in case the Ampatuans serve officially implicated in the massacre.

He pointed out that both the Ampatuans and the Mangudadatus belonged to the administration party.

"I would like to make it clear that the orders of President Arroyo are very clear and were sentence—to ensure that there is no impunity, investigation of this immensely are no matter who gets hurt, especially considering that this violence is something that is really unconscionable and cannot be tolerated," Remonde said at a media briefing.

Said Claudio: "Suffice it to say that whether[the perpetrators are[party members or not, we consider this massacre something that is beyond comprehension, beyond justification, and beyond sanity."

Mediation

Claudio said the Palace had earlier initiated mediation between the two families to prevent political violence in Maguindanao in the May elections.

At least three meetings took place in July, August and October, he said. "We were hoping... to help them settle their differences before things got out of hand."

Claudio recalled that Ms Arroyo sat in at one meeting, during which the Ampatuans and the Mangudadatus acknowledged their "family ties."

He said another meeting was hosted by then Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr.

Claudio said there was no initial agreement "in principle" that no Maguindanao would contest Ampatuan Sr.'s gubernatorial post.

"Before we could reason of forty to settle these differences, this happened. So it pains us," Claudio said.

He added: "On the political side, we also would like to know where the breakdown happened. But this would have to take a back seat. What is more important is law enforcement. Criminal investigations has to be done and completed as swiftly, decisively and objectively as possible."

Claudio also said the government would "leave no stone unturned to help the families of the victims, subdue the truth[the fact, and serve the ends of justice."

Church group challenges cops: Show some teeth, go after suspects

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE CATHOLIC PASTORAL COUNcil for Responsible Voting yesterday urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to place Maguindanao immediately under its control to prevent an escalation of violence.

Council chairman Bienvenida de Villa also called on the government to throw the full force of the law against the masterminds and perpetrators of Monday's massacre.

"I am shocked, angry and terribly saddened at the grisly massacre in Maguindanao where we're barely begun the electoral process. I grieve with our Muslim election partners in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) who seem so used to changes for the worse the dastardly profile of the ARMM," De Villa said in a statement.

Aside from placing Maguindanao under the Comelec's control, De Villa also asked the poll body to transfer the filing of certificate of candidacy to October.

'Show some teeth'

De Villa challenged the Philippine National Police to "show some teeth and go after suspects and arrest them" while disarming all relatives and supporters of the two warring clans in Maguindanao.

She also called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "literally and concretely throw the full force of the government in apprehend the killers, especially the masterminds[without fear or favor no matter the political consequences."

She said the media and civil society should also "step up its vigilance and voice unanimous condemnation and supervision of Maguindanao are caught and brought to the bar of justice."

"Let us pray as a people united for the cause of justice and peace. God save us all," De Villa said.

Bishops denounce killings

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) also condemned the massacre and appealed for the restoration of justice and peace and respect for human life in Maguindanao.

"Whether it is politically motivated or not, it is still a crime against respect for life and peace and order in the community," Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP president, said in a statement.

"We join the appeal to rightful authorities to restore justice to the situation. We likewise appeal that the common good as well as respect for human life be supernova in the campaign for political ends," Lagdameo said.

"May this painful situation be a strong reason for further pursuing the ongoing peace process in Mindanao," he added.

GMA dared: Get Ampatuans

Front page A1

ng clan is still be wracked with resignations as it will become untenable for many members, like me, to stay in a party that coddles mass murderers," Alvarez warned.

He said the party would not be worthy of its name Lakas-Kampi-Christian Muslim Democrats if it served as a refuge for "people who violate that principle in the most heinous manner."

"Glen's good fight will lose its meaning if [the party] accepts support from people whose very actions contradict the party's philosophy of political tolerance and civil discourse," Alvarez said, adding:

"The spread of violence will only be stopped, justice served, and democracy honored if the full force of the law is applied without fear or favor."

In cold blood

As the House of Representatives, Speaker Prospero Nograles said Wednesday should "drop all political considerations" in its investigation to determine those responsible for the murder of at least 56 people, including lawyers and journalists.

"This is already beyond political affiliation. I still cannot imagine how a man can be so brutal and cold-blooded in employing violence just to achieve political ends. It is really unbelievable," said Nograles, who represents the first district of Davao City.

"The offense is literally the rule of law, democracy, the constitution, should be done swiftly but with cold objectivity and all partisan considerations, including political affiliation, should be set aside," he said.

Nograles urged the military and police to beef up security in Maguindanao in order to avert more violence.

"[They] should now step up efforts to disarm private armed groups in Mindanao," he said, warning that the killings could erupt into a full-blown civil war known as "rido."

Nograles also said the Commission on Elections should [not] whether it would be still feasible to hold elections in Maguindanao in May.

Warlords

Elsewhere, Vice President Noli de Castro condemned the killings and called on the government to "assert its power to stop warlordism."

"These barbaric acts have no place in a civilized society. The perpetrators, no matter what power or political influence they wield, should be brought to justice," he said.

De Castro said the government should immediately take a closer hand at removing law and order in Maguindanao.

"These acts of violence are more despicable considering that no respect whatsoever was given to media men," said De Castro, a former broadcast journalist.

He called on police and military authorities to accept their tasks and hold to account the politicians responsible for the mass murder.

The Vice President also said utmost prosecution should be extended to all eyewitnesses in order to ensure the prosecution of the perpetrators.

"Let justice be done at all cost," he said.

Teodoro likewise called for the dismantling of private armies and the reinforcement of police and military forces in Maguindanao.

"We must do this by short cut," he said. "Only [police and military] presence can only achieve this security problem."

Declared Teodoro: "I condemn in the strongest possible terms this heinous act executed in Maguindanao... I can come up with no justification or idea ... to comprehend what made a person do this."

He said the authorities should arrest the perpetrators "wherever they may be."

"Even if they are political allies, they should be punished if they are found liable," he said.

GMA to blame

According to militant party-list lawmakers, the President is to blame for the atrocities in Maguindanao.

Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello said Ms Arroyo was unaccountable for the most horrible betrayal of her support for the Ampatuans.

"They allow massive overnight functions on provincial government-run. More importantly, Mamasapano[cuddling of [Maguindanao] Governor Ampatuan as a political ally but overlooked to the culture of impunity surrounding his rule," Bello said in a statement.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano blamed Ms Arroyo for the "semi-feudal" to the country, specifically her tolerance of the Ampatuans' private army.

"The culture of impunity and violence under Ms Arroyo's [administration] appears to lead to natural collapse... It is highly condemnable that this barbaric act happened [even with] the heightened presence of state security forces in the area," Mariano said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the Monday massacre was a challenge to the President because she had to ensure a thorough inquiry of every key close allies.

He said the killings also showed the administration's "utter incompetence" in preventing the proliferation of armed groups.

"There is a challenge to [Ms Arroyo's] political will since this is the biggest election-related violence... The moral and political responsibility is that there should be a very thorough investigation to identify those responsible," Ocampo said.

He also said the military and police should be held liable for allowing armed groups to operate and carry out criminal acts.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said Ms Arroyo should see to it that the violence in Maguindanao would not set the tone for the rest of the election season.

Maza also said the killings showed that warnings were "the most vulnerable in the most unstable for power during elections," and that it was not true, as often believed, that summers would be spared from hate because of the election campaign.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño demanded that the perpetrators be punished

NEWS

KISSING SCENES: Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero kisses his wife after announcing he was not running (left); Sen. Noynoy Aquino welcomes girlfriend Shalani Soledad to the Liberal Party after and early evening yesterday

Noynoy, Mar want Chiz in LP

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEEING THE OPPORTUNITY, Senators Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino and Manuel Roxas yesterday invited Sen. Francis Escudero to join the Liberal Party after Escudero announced his decision not to run for either president or vice president in 2010.

Aquino and Roxas, the LP presidential and vice-presidential candidates, said that if Escudero decides to join them, there would be "a clearer opposition front."

"We have similar views on a lot of things. We have been fighting this corrupt administration for a long time now," Aquino said.

"We highly respect him. We are very much open, we welcome Senator Chiz to our campaign," said Roxas.

According to Aquino, Escudero would fit the role of campaign manager.

He said negotiations with Escudero would be under way next but that the senator should be given time to rest.

Aquino is also interested in the oath taking of new recruits to the LP led by his girlfriend, Television executive Shalani Soledad, and actors Richard Gomez and Wendell Ramos.

Wooing FVR too

Aquino says also set to meet with former President Fidel Ramos later yesterday to seek his support.

"I will show my respect. We will exchange views on a lot of things. He is a former president until a senior statesman, and it would behoove any (candidate) to partake of his wisdom," said Aquino who had asked for the meeting.

Aquino said he was also "courting" Sen. Jamby Madrigal to run in the LP senatorial slate.

He noted that he and Madrigal had taken the same positions on a number of issues in the Senate.

"If our friend's position is done, why shouldn't we get her?" he said.

He said he was happy that Escudero had decided not to run for president because "you don't want to fight with your friend. There is no reason that we should part ways now."

He said that their friendship, which began when both became congressmen in 1998, had passed the test of time.

Satur, Liza to go it alone

By Leila B. Salaverria

REFUSING TO COMPROMISE THEIR stand on the Marcos dictatorship, two militant lawmakers of the newly formed Makabayan coalition backed out of a team up with Sen. Manuel Villar's Nationalista Party and announced they would run for the Senate as independents in the 2010 polls.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza made it a joint endorsement yesterday they could not stomach joining the NP slate after Villar forged an alliance with the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, the party founded by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos' son, Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., was included in the NP's tentatively slate.

Ocampo, who was among those tortured and detained when Marcos imposed martial law in 1972, said he was surprised at Villar's statement, made after the team up with the young Marcos, that people should forgive the past and move on.

Marcos ruled until 1986 when he was deposed in a civilian-military "people power" revolt.

Earlier, the NP seemed to be the most likely party that the militants would team up with, especially after Villar offered to take in the two mediators, and after talks with the Liberal Party's standard bearer Benigno Aquino III failed to result in any offer.

Ocampo said when he and Villar had talked, the latter told them he was committed to the militants' cause of giving compensation to the human rights victims of the Marcos regime and the recovery of the late dictator's ill-gotten wealth.

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NBI: Ivler's parents not yet off the hook

Road rage suspect placed on watchlist

By Tina D. Santos, Nancy C. Carvajal and Kristine L. Alave

AN OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) yesterday said the parents of Jason Ivler may be held liable for obstruction of justice in connection with the murder of Renato Victor Eballe Jr., the son of a Malacañang official.

IVLER

Angelito Magno, chief of the NBI Special Action Unit, said they received information that it was Marlene Aguilos, Ivler's mother, who had ordered the transfer of a Honda CRV to a house in SSV Village, Concepcion Dos, Marikina City where it was later found by NBI and police operatives.

Eballe, the son of Presidential Chief of Staff Undersecretary Renato Eballe Sr., was shot to death with a .45-caliber pistol after his Toyota Land Cruiser almost collided with the CRV allegedly driven by Ivler at the corner of Real Santiago and Esmeralda Streets in Quezon City on Nov. 16.

Magno said Ivler got off the CRV with diplomatic license plate 2000001 and shot the victim repeatedly before escaping.

"We're still evaluating her possible liability. It is still still under the circumstances of obstruction of justice. We have to know what her motive was if she indeed ordered the vehicle transfer," Magno said.

He added that Atong Ang, Department Head

Manileños ask SC for help in repealing ordinance

By Norman Bordadora

A GROUP OF MANILA RESIdents yesterday asked the Supreme Court to order the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to pave the way for a people's initiative seeking to repeal an ordinance allowing the Pandacan oil depot to keep its operating.

Members of Mañalaca Kontra Ilusyon (MKI) asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) and a writ of preliminary injunction to prevent Comelec chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. from implementing Resolution 6848 and to order him to accept a petition signed by around 12,000 residents seeking the repeal of Ordinance 8187.

Under the ordinance, highly pollutive and extremely hazardous substances such as petroleum refineries and oil depots will be allowed to operate in the city.

The Comelec earlier said the group failed to file its petition within 30 days after it submitted a copy of the people's initiative to the Manila City Council as required under the local government code.

MKI, however, said that the poll body may have misinterpreted the law.

It added that under the local government code, the petition must first be submitted to the city council which has 30 days to act on it.

"The council has to take action first before we can submit our petition to the Comelec," the group said.

According to MKI, the petition containing the signatures of 12,000 residents seeking the repeal of Ordinance 8187 was submitted to the city council on June 23.

The council, however, failed to act on it within the 30-day period, prompting MKI to submit the petition to the poll body on Aug. 25.

Under the Local Government Code of 1991 and Republic Act 6735 (Initiative and Referendum Act) registered voters may directly propose, enact, amend or repeal an existing ordinance.

They may file a petition with the city council which has 30 days to take favorable action, after which petitioners will be given 90 days to collect the required number of signatures.

Once the required number of signatures has been reached, the petitions may be filed with the Comelec which can order the holding of a plebiscite.

According to the MKI, Ordinance 8187 violated the people's right to a healthy and safe environment as the group cited the dangers posed by the oil depot and other pollutive and hazardous industries in residents in the Pandacan and Sta. Ana areas.

A GROUP of Manila residents is pushing for the repeal of an ordinance allowing oil companies to keep the depot in the Pandacan area open.

Man gets 40 years for raping teenager

By Tina G. Santos

A MAN FOUND GUILTY OF raping the 13-year-old girlfriend of his cousin three years ago was sentenced yesterday by a Manila court to 40 years in prison.

Judge Isidro Pascual Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 also ordered Marlon Caga, 43, a resident of Pandacan, Manila, to pay the victim P50,000 in moral damages.

Court records showed that the rape took place on Sept. 17, 2000, in Caga's house.

The victim told the court that she and her boyfriend, Randy Bonifacio, decided to spend the night in Caga's house because they were too drunk to go home.

She said that later in the night, she felt someone touching her. She added that she did not resist because she thought that it was her boyfriend.

Afterward, the victim, still feeling dizzy and tired, slowly opened her eyes and found out that it was Caga who had sex with her.

The victim said she hastily stood up, bowed and slapped Caga before immediately reporting the incident to barangay officials.

She added that she later filed a complaint with the police.

In court, the victim positively identified Caga as the one who sexually abused her.

The court ruled that "carnal knowledge with a woman who is asleep constitutes rape since she was either deprived of reason or of consciousness or otherwise unconscious at that time."

It added that the victim, during her testimony, appeared to be straightforward, positive and convincing in accusing Caga, who merely denied the accusation against him.

"The court found no motive on the part of the victim to concoct such a false charge ... the logical conclusion is that the testimony is worthy of full faith and credence. From all indications, she does not appear to have any ill motive to falsely testify against the accused," the judge said in his decision.

The judge added that the fact that the victim immediately reported the matter to the authorities, which led to the arrest and filing of complaint against Caga, sustained the credibility of the victim's testimony.

"PAROL TREE
A man arranges lanterns at different sizes as a giant Christmas tree in Manila. The lanterns bear Mayor Alfredo Lim's face. —

Caloocan mayor, 8 execs sued for graft

By Beverly T. Hattabat

GRAFT CHARGES HAVE BEEN filed against Caloocan Mayor Enrico "Recom" Echiverri in connection with the city government's purchase of more than 13,000 sacks of rice worth nearly P20 million from a firm which was not an authorized grains dealer.

The case was filed by Reynaldo Malonzo, a former mayor of the city, before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Also included in the complaint were eight other incumbent city officials.

The charges against Echiverri and company were based on the purchase of 13,020 sacks of commercial rice worth P19.06 million from R. Ty Computer Enterprise on March 21.

Attached to the complaint were documents showing that the rice was distributed among the poor.

Malonzo claimed that Echiverri and the other city officials who had approved the purchase "maliciously, intentionally and with full knowledge and information at the outset, entered into a contract which was manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the city government of Caloocan."

He added that the transaction was anomalous because the respondents bought the rice from a computer dealer instead of a licensed grains retailer or the National Food Authority (NFA).

Based on Malonzo's complaint, R. Ty Computer Enterprise sold the rice at P34.96 per kilo, comparatively higher than the NFA's rate of P18.25 per kilo.

Reached for comment, Echiverri said the transaction was aboveboard and that the commodity was bought for the city government's regular rice distribution program.

He added that thousands of indigent families in Caloocan had benefited from the program "particularly during the time when the price of rice was not affordable to the ordinary folk."

Echiverri also pointed out that the city under his leadership, has been experiencing growth in terms of revenue and infrastructure and that Malonzo "should be the last person to point out any slight mistake."

Malonzo is expected to call for Caloocan vice mayor next year.

'Actress authorized ex-aide to act on her behalf'

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FORMER BANK EMPLOYEE yesterday told a Quezon City court that Jennylyn Mercado had authorized her erstwhile assistant, who is facing qualified theft raps, to transact with the bank on the actress' behalf.

In his testimony during a bail hearing at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 77, Lester Chavez, who used to work for Ismed corporate Planters Bank (UCPB), said he witnessed Mercado open an account at the bank's Tomas Morato branch.

With her was her aide at that time, Rowena Polmano.

Chavez said the actress told the witness that she had authorized Polmano to transact with the bank on her behalf.

Judge Veronica Ilarde, meanwhile, denied a motion filed by Polmano's lawyer, Armando Feliciano, seeking her temporary release from detention pending the resolution of her petition for bail.

Feliciano said that his client has been suffering from health problems and that she could not attend to her family since she was detained at Camp Bagong Diwa.

"But I'm not allowed under the law. We will give them (prosecution) the opportunity to present their evidence in touch as possible, all the prosecution witnesses will be presented during the next hearing," Ilarde said.

Mercado earlier filed charges of qualified theft against Polmano for allegedly stealing from her P468,000 worth of checks during separate occasions in 2005. Polmano, whom the actress later fired, was arrested last month by policemen in San Mateo, Rizal.

Polmano was hired by Becky Aguilar, Mercado's cashier and, later, as an actress' personal assistant and to take care of her bills and other financial obligations.

Mercado said her former aide stole the money from her account by forging her signature on several checks from June to September last year.

Prosecutor said Chavez's testimony in yesterday's hearing was favorable to his client even if the witness was presented by the prosecution.

"That is actually favorable to us. I don't think there is a crime of grave abuse of confidence or qualified theft. The witness did not notice any irregularity when the complainant was filling the forms," he told reporters.

Muntinlupa's displaced families given 3 choices

By Nina Calleja

VICTIMS OF TROPICAL STORM "Ondoy" who have been staying since Sept. 26 in evacuation centers in Muntinlupa City have been given another options.

The 1,000 families have been living in 12 temporary shelters for the past two months after Muntinlupa forced them to leave their homes.

Yesterday, they were given three options on how to go about reuniting their ruined lives.

According to the city government, the families can either rent an apartment, return to their home province or repair their houses which were washed by floods.

Those who opt to rent will receive a financial assistance of P1,000.

On the other hand, the city government will shoulder the transport fares of families who choose to go back to their provinces.

Meanwhile, those who decide to remain in the city will receive P7,000 worth of construction materials so that they could repair their flood-damaged houses.

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P.S.

INQUIRER

NBI . . .

From page A23

checking reports that Ortiz might have already left the country and whether he arrived in the United States Army.

Meanwhile, the police have advised the US Embassy to confirm of his citizenship and at the same time requested for criminal records, if any," Chief Supt. Elmo San Diego, Quezon City Police District director said.

He explained that they go in touch with the embassy to ensure that Ortiz would not be able to leave the country since a hold departure order had been issued against him in connection with Pesor's death.

STILL AT WORK
Philippine Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando inspects a beautification project on the Quirino by Bob area in Manila. Earlier, Fernando said he would be quitting his post once he pursue his ambition to run for president.

Gov't workers receive bonus

From page A23

Christmas," Jun Pedro said.

He added, "The Christmas celebration in our city will be simple and meaningful this year given that thousands of residents were devastated by the recent typhoons."

According to Dr. Nuyda, the city government's celebration of the holiday season will focus on helping families affected by Typhoon Ondoy."

Until now, eight lahoide communities in Marikina City remain submerged in floodwaters.

DID YOU KNOW

METRO Manila has the highest number of reported cases of violence against women last year. It is followed by Cebu City, Davao City and Baguio City, which completed the top four, according to the Philippine National Police. Read more about it on page A2.

Inquirer Research

MEAL TIME
A crocodile at the Davao Crocodile Park (Philsaga) City zoom nibbody out of the water to grab a piece of meat. PHOTO

Manila court finds government prosecutor guilty of libel

By Tina G. Santos

A MANILA COURT HAS SENTENCED a government prosecutor to suffer a minimum of one year, eight months and 20 days in prison after he was found guilty of libel charges filed by a judge accused of child abuse.

In a 20-page decision, Judge Edwardo Peralta Jr. of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 17 also ordered Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco to pay Caloocan Judge Sebastian Angeles a P1,000 fine and P50,000 in moral damages.

"The court is of the firm impression that imprisonment is the logical option plus the fine of P1,000 to underscore that liberty is not an unbridled license to openly smear an officer before an inappropriate forum for redress," the court said in its decision handed down on Sept. 11.

The libel suit stemmed from Velasco's statements to the media in which he accused former Justice Secretary Antonio Taguiwo of meddling in the child abuse case filed against Angeles.

Velasco was the prosecutor in the case.

His statements were aired over government television station IBC-13 on July 15, 2002.

2 exonerated at large

Also named as respondents in the libel complaint were Holly Gonzalez and Cesar Salazar, newscaster and executive producer of the TV network, respectively.

The two, however, were not tried in court as they remain at large.

According to Velasco, Taguiwo also acted on concerns the Office of the President had earlier raised about the judge.

Due to Taguiwo's alleged meddling, Velasco asked that the case be certified to another court. He also moved for the suspension of Angeles.

In his defense, Velasco denied the accusation against him. He also underscored his role as a prosecutor and lawyer of the Department of Justice who was involved in sensational cases such as the preliminary investigation he conducted on the child abuse case filed against the complainant.

Unjustified

But the court ruled that Velasco overstepped his bounds when he spoke to the media while the case was still pending in court.

"When accused Velasco spoke to the media ... about what he considered as his conception despite the pendency of complainant's petition for review of the child abuse case before the Office of the President, there was certainly unnecessary publicity which destroyed whatever of privilege of Velasco in Article 354 of the Revised Penal Code," it said.

"Given the manner that the epithet was publicly hurled against complainant Angeles, and in the process, Taguiwo was equally traduced to an alleged case fixing, to impose simply a fine against Velasco will denigrate the magnitude of the crime," the court added.

The Supreme said has failed to reach Velasco for comment.

Mayor orders probe of demolition

By Nina Calleja

DAVAO MAYOR MERCEDES "Nonoy" Tiñulad has ordered the city police chief to punish the policemen who fired to evil bullets during the demolition of shanties around a mosque in Barangay Isla verde.

At the same time, he asked Senior Supt. Raul Petrasanta, Panay police chief, to investigate the incident and determine if the police committed lapses during the demolition operations.

Tiñulad, however, said he was certain that no one was killed during the operation, contrary to a Muslim leader's claim that three people were killed after the police fired warning shots to drive back residents who were poking them with bottles, stones and even burning wood.

A resident, however, sustained a gunshot wound in the leg.

POLICEMEN guard a mosque in a relocation area in Panay City following the demolition of shanties surrounding it. AP PHOTO

The police earlier defended their actions, saying they were forced into firing warning shots because the residents were armed with rampak (improvised gun) and Molotov bombs.

Tiñulad said he would direct the medical expenses of the injured man who was confined at Davao Doctors Hospital.

Tiñulad also assured the Muslim residents in a dialogue on Monday that the mosque in Barangay would not be demolished.

The mosque will not be touched. We had only demarcated shanties around it. Two years ago, we paid the informal settlers there but they came back," he said.

"Personally, I don't mind if the mosque stays. In fact, it will be a good tourist attraction, because it is near the bus terminals and the airport. However, there is a directive to transfer the mosque to another place to give way to the construction of the Bike-a-thon," he said.

He was referring to the proposed public transport terminal which will be equipped with modern amenities.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority, who owns the land where the mosque is located, said in a statement that the mosque was constructed with its knowledge and consent in 2007. It also allowed the temporary use of the mosque for reading purposes in 1998, it added.

The WORLD

Lito Lorente B. Greco

Fort Hood suspect may seek insanity defense

FORT WORTH—AN ARMY PSYCHIATRIST accused of killing 13 people during an attack on his Texas post will likely plead not guilty to the charges against him and may use an insanity defense at his military trial, his attorney said on Monday.

John Galligan, the civilian attorney for Maj. Nidal Hasan, said he is considering an insanity defense among other options, but that it's too early to determine his defense strategy.

"Based on the evidence thus far, his mental status must be raised," Galligan told The Associated Press by phone from his office near Fort Hood, about 130 miles southwest of Dallas. "Anybody who allegedly engages in conduct that is completely inconsistency to his lifestyle and military career—an insanity defense has to be considered."

Hasan has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Nov. 5 shooting at Fort Hood, and military officials have said they may file more charges. More than two dozen others were wounded in the shooting spree, which happened at a building where soldiers finalize their wills and are medically screened before they are deployed.

Galligan said military law requires his client to plead not guilty if prosecutors seek the death penalty, but he said that decision has not been made.

Hasan remains in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital, where he was taken after being shot during the attack. At a hearing in his hospital room on Saturday, Hasan was ordered to remain in custody until trial.

Galligan said he is frustrated because prosecutors are taking too long to respond to his questions and requests. He said he has asked only to videotape notes allowed to testify during Saturday's hearing, and today it was closed to the news media. He said he had planned to question Hasan's commanders, who he does not suspect ordered Hasan would be moved to an unspecified hospital but not say when.

During the hearing in Hasan's room, a magistrate ruled that there was probable cause that Hasan committed the Nov. 5 shooting spree at Fort Hood, said Galligan.

Hasan has been at Brooke Army Medical Center since the shooting, and his attorney said Hasan has been told he has permanent paralysis.

Galligan told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that the judge also ordered Hasan to pretrial confinement, which usually means jail, until his court-martial. The military justice system does not have bail for defendants.

The magistrate ruled that Hasan's confinement will remain in the hospital, where he is in intensive care, Galligan said.

Saturday's hearing was closed to the media. Officials at Fort Hood declined to comment. AP

MADELINE Martinez (right), executive director of the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, talks with a patron at the Cannabis Cabin in Portland, Oregon on Tuesday. AP

Oregon cafe serves marijuana too

PORTLAND—AT THE NEWLY opened Cannabis Cafe, people sit around talking sales from a "superjoint"—7 a conception with a big plastic bag that supposes the potent vapors of leaves, marijuana. Other bars serve up martinis and snacks for the hungry.

It's all perfectly legal and, for owners partner Albert Sarfaraian, it's about time.

"It's a very positive atmosphere. We could see more places like that," the 55-year-old former jewelry shop owner said.

A few weeks ago, Sarfaraian would have had no place to go. But with the Obama administration's decision last month to soften the federal stance on medical marijuana, the Cannabis Cafe and a lounge across town popped up, bringing a little bit of pot-friendly Amsterdam to this laid-back corner of Portland.

Oregon became the second state to pass a marijuana law in 1998, following California. There are nearly 24,000 patients with medical marijuana cards in Oregon. Only state residents can obtain the card after registering as a patient in the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program with a qualifying debilitating medical condition diagnosed by a doctor. AP

Former Thai PM Samak dies of cancer

BANGKOK—SAMAK SUNDARAVEJ, a firebrand right-wing politician and TV cooking show host who briefly served as Thailand's prime minister and ousted, and himself a proxy of ousted leader Thaksin Shinawatra, died of cancer on Tuesday. He was 74.

Samak died at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok after a long battle with liver cancer, hospital official Siravichanit Sinaphawe said. Samak had sought treatment for the cancer late last year in the United States and kept a low profile after returning to Thailand.

Known as a straight-talker with a penchant for the press, Samak's political career spanned four decades including six terms as an anti-communist rabble-rouser, but many supporters remembered him best for his TV show called "Tasting and Complaining," a mix of food and politics that scorching and rants on pet subjects.

SAMAK

Among the few Thai public cians to express their condolences was former Prime Minister Thaksin, who was forced out in a 2006 coup and tweeted about Samak's death from self-imposed exile. He also expressed regret that he could not return to the country to attend the funeral.

It was ultimately Samak's TV work that ended his political career, which peaked in December 2007 when he became the country's 25th prime minister—a job that lasted only nine months.

Samak's tenure as prime minister coincided with one of the worst political crises in Thailand's history and followed the September 2006 that ousted Thaksin. Samak rose to power in the self-proclaimed proxy for Thaksin, who was living in exile. Samak became the focus of street rallies by anti-Thaksin protesters who demanded his resignation.

Tens of thousands of protesters stormed the prime minister's compound in August 2008, but it wasn't the protesters who led to his ouster.

A court ruled in September 2008 that Samak's appearances on his TV cooking show while prime minister—and the fact that he had accepted money—constituted a conflict of interest. AP

Big Bang machine achieves first particle collisions

GENEVA—SCIENTISTS HAVE SMASHED together proton beams for the first time in a 27-kilometer tunnel under the French-Swiss border in an initial step towards discovering how the universe came into existence, they said on Monday.

Scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) hope experiments will already start giving clues about the origins of the universe in the coming months as the world's biggest particle collider starts moving to full power.

"It's a great achievement to have come this far in so short a time," said CERN Director General Rolf Heuer about the collision, achieved by sending two bunches of subatomic particles around the ring in opposite directions.

It is only three days since the "Big Bang Machine," or Large Hadron Collider (LHC), was restarted back on after being halted by an accident 14 months ago, just 10 days after its first start-up.

Earlier, physicist Steve Myers told journalists it would take until 2011 for beams of protons to hit top velocity in the nearly $10 billion experiment, which involves seven dozen countries.

The key aim of the project in the CERN research center is to try to discover how the universe took shape, after the Big Bang 13.7 billion years ago, split our matter at our specks and complex that eventually became stars, planets and then life itself.

Experiments in a previous collider at the CERN research center near Geneva at the foot of the French Jura mountains staged particle collisions producing energy very close to that of the Big Bang.

The LHC operating at its full might should recreate conditions like those just one billionth of a second after the primeval explosion.

The scientists now plan to increase the beam intensity and accelerate the beams further so they can gather enough collision data by Christmas to help set up experiments. Reuters

Mars valleys point to rainy red planet

WASHINGTON—A NETWORK OF VALLEY discovered on Mars show that the red planet was likely once covered by a vast ocean that fed a humid, rainy climate, according to research published on Monday.

Debate has raged for decades over whether Martian valleys resulted from water erosion—caused by humidity and rainfall—or through groundwater-mapping erosion, which can happen in cold and dry conditions.

The comparative lack of river networks on the Martian surface supported theories that rain was unlikely, but mapping based on topographic data from Nasa satellites has found that the valley network is at least twice as extensive as previously estimated.

The shape and distribution of the valleys is even more telling, and makes it "hard to imagine" that they could have been caused by anything but rainfall, said scientist Wei Luo, a geography professor at Southern Illinois University.

The valleys are deeper and more common in the areas closest to the coast of what scientists believe was once a vast northern ocean.

This indicates that they were caused by erosion from floods which formed over the ocean and dumped the bulk of their rain on the windward side of the mountains, he said.

"There are loaded at the global distribution (of the valley network) we found there is a limit on the southern end of it and most of the concentrated, high-density areas close to the hypothesized northern ocean boundary," Luo said in a telephone interview.

"We calculated the estimated depths of the valleys and we see that they get shallower as you go north to south," Rida, said Luo, would be mostly restricted to the area near the ocean and to the land inshore in the immediate vicinity, which correlates with the belt-like pattern of valley dissection seen in our new map.

"The southernmost regions of Mars, located farthest from the water reservoir, would get little rainfall and would develop no valleys." The study appears in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

Luo is coauthor of the report along with Tomasz Stepinski, a staff scientist at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas. AFP

AWESOME of the KLM airplane fueled by biokerosene is seen at Schiphol airport, near Amsterdam, on Nov. 11. A Boeing 747, one of four engines powered by a 50 percent biokerosene mix, circled the Netherlands for an hour. AP

China executes 2 in milk scandal

HELBOL—TWO MEN WERE executed in China on Tuesday for their roles in a contaminated milk powder scandal that led to the deaths of at least six infants and sickened up to 300,000, state media said.

The men had been sentenced to death earlier this year by a court in the northern city of Shijiazhuang for producing and selling toxic ingredients that ended up in the infant milk powder, Xinhua news agency said.

Zhang Yujun and Geng Jinping were put to death following conviction, orders issued by China's high court and after their appeals were turned down in March, Xinhua said.

It cited a statement from the Shijiazhuang Municipal Intermediate Court in Hebei province. AFP calls to the various courts went unanswered.

The Xinhua report did not say where the executions occurred.

The scandal came to light in September 2008, reviving fears over product safety in China and leading to recalls and bans around the world of goods containing Chinese dairy products.

According to Xinhua, Zhang was convicted of producing and selling more than 770 tons of protein powder laced with the industrial chemical melamine from July 2007 to August 2008.

The chemical, which is used to make plastics, was mixed into milk to give the appearance of higher protein content.

Geng was found guilty of selling milk tainted by the powder to dairy brokers as well as to the state-owned Sanlu Group, the dairy giant that was at the center of the scandal, it added.

The scandal erupted just after the Beijing Olympics in August 2008 amid widespread reports officials sought to cover it up to prevent embarrassment during the Games.

At least six babies died and nearly 300,000 others fell ill with kidney stones, kidney failure and other urinary tract problems after consuming products laced with melamine.

In all, 22 Chinese dairy firms were found to have sold tainted milk and were subsequently ordered by the government to pay $100 million in compensation to the families of children who died or fell ill.

Many families and their lawyers complained that the compensation payments were inadequate and demanded the government step up its food safety regime.

Altogether 21 people have been convicted for their roles in the scandal including former Sanlu boss Tian Wenhua, who was given life in prison.

One other person was given a suspended death penalty, a sentence that routinely gets commuted to life in jail, while 15 others were imprisoned for terms ranging from two to 15 years.

The Sanlu Group, once one of China's largest dairy manufacturers, was declared bankrupt in February after having amassed 1.1 billion yuan ($161 million) of debt, Xinhua reported at the time. AFP

KLM flies world's first passenger flight on biofuel

TEL HAGUE—A BOEING 747, ONE OF FOUR engines powered by a 50-percent biokerosene mix, circled the Netherlands for an hour on Monday for what airline KLM called the world's first passenger flight using biofuel.

"This is technically feasible. We have demonstrated that it is possible," KLM chief executive officer Peter Hartman said after the flight, which took off and landed at Schiphol airport near Amsterdam.

"Governments, industry and society at large must now join forces to ensure that we quickly gain access to a continuous supply of biofuel." The flight had about 40 people on board, including Hartman, Economic Affairs Minister Maria van der Hoeven, the director of nature group WWF in the Netherlands, Johan van de Gronden, and a handful of journalists.

KLM spokesperson Monique Mares told AFP that of the Boeing's four engines, one was powered by a mix of 50 percent sustainable kerosene and 50 percent normal fuel. The biofuel was manufactured from the camelina plant, sourced from a biotechnology company based in Seattle in the United States. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

5 dead in Italian plane crash

ROME—An Italian air force transport plane crashed onto train tracks near a military airport in the Tuscan city of Pisa on Monday and burst into flames, killing its five member crew, officials said. Air force Col. Mauro Gabetti said the C-130 was on a training flight and had been approaching the airport when it suddenly veered away and then crashed. The cause of the crash was under investigation. The Pisa fire department said the plane crashed onto railway tracks, setting afire electrical wires. There was no train in the area at the time. AP

Bombings kill 12 in Afghanistan

KABUL—Bombings and shootings killed 12 people across Afghanistan, including four American troops and three children, as President Barack Obama convened his war council again to fine-tune a strategy to respond to the insurgent violence. Three US troops were killed in southern Afghanistan on Sunday—two in a bombing and a third in a separate firefight—while another was killed to the east of the country in a bombing on Monday, Nato said. A suicide bombing also struck the same province. The bombs, which was targeting a police convoy, killed five civilians, including three children, the Interior Ministry said. Separately, three Afghan soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in the volatile southern province of Helmand, the Defense Ministry said. AP

Khmer Rouge leader trial

PHNOM PENH—The genocide trial of a prison chief for Cambodia's Khmer Rouge entered its final stage on Monday as closing arguments began in the historic effort to assign responsibility for the deaths of 1.7 million people three decades ago. The defendant, Kaing Guek Eav, commanded S-21 prison which punished those accused of disloyalty to the xenophobic communist group. He oversaw the torture and execution of about 16,000 men, women and children during 1975-79 rule. If the United Nations-assisted tribunal rules him guilty, the former schoolteacher faces a maximum penalty of life in prison, as Cambodia has no death penalty. AP

World's oldest sheep dies

MELBOURNE—The world's oldest sheep has died in Australia after reluctantly to a record-breaking heatwave that scorched much of the country's southeast, its owner said on Tuesday. Despite her best efforts to nurse Lucky through the searing heat, owner Olivia Wentgarth said the ewe died on Monday aged 23 years, six months and 29 days at the farm in Victoria state where she was born. Lucky was recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest sheep in September 2007, three aged 21 years, two months and was outstanding as a celebrity in her 250-person hometown of Lake Boga, west of Melbourne. Lucky was buried beneath her favorite nectarine tree, Wentgarth added. AFP

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3G16-125	P1,190,000	P1,096,000	P1,251,000	P1,346,000	P1,250,000
2019 Variant					
3G19-100	P1,000,000	P1,331,000	P1,861,000	P2,183,000	P1,250,000
3G19-127	P1,275,000	P1,330,000	P1,861,000	P2,561,000	P1,250,000

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'World's biggest animal sacrifice' begins in Nepal

BANDARA—(UPI) A MILLION Hindu devotees gathered on Tuesday in a tiny village in Nepal to witness the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of animals in a mass sacrifice that has drawn widespread criticism.

Worshippers traveled long distances, many coming from neighboring India, to attend the Gadhimai festival, which honors the Hindu goddess of power and takes place once every five years in southern Nepal.

A huge cry of "Long Live Gadhimai" went up after the village temple's head priest brandished the sword with the ritual sacrifice of two wild rats, two pigeons, a rooster, a lamb and a pig.

The gathered crowd then rushed in a nearby field where 250 sword-wielding butchers were waiting to begin the massslaughter of around 20,000 buffalo, brought by devotees to be sacrificed near the holy temple.

"This is a very special day for Hindu devotees," head priest Manjul Chaudhary Tharu told AFP as the Gadhimai festival began. AFP

Protesters to Yudhoyono: Quit

JAKARTA—INDONESIAN PROtesters burned effigies of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday over what they see as his complicity in a series of major corruption scandals.

Protesters called for his resignation over the controversial bailout of the failed Bank Century and are alleged conspirators among senior police, prosecutors and politicians to cripple the popular anti-corruption agency.

Yudhoyono stunned anti-corruption activists last Monday when he delivered a rambling reply to advice from his own fact-finding team to punish separate law enforcers implicated in the suspected conspiracy.

In a nationally televised speech, Yudhoyono claimed he could not interfere to criminal cases no matter how futile the public had in the police and the courts.

But because of the threat the scandal posed to "social unity," he said the "better option and solution ... is for the police and prosecutors not to bring that case to court." Some members of the fact-finding team said they saw a "clear" message to the police to drop the criminal allegations against the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) deputies.

Anti-graft activists however said Yudhoyono had abrogated his duty and his election promises to fight corruption. His failure to take strong action was at best a sign of impotency or, at worst, collusion, they added.

"The president's speech was just bullshit," Indonesia Corruption Watch activist Illian Deta Arta Sari told AFP.

"All the promises about fighting corruption were just pages to fish for votes to win the election. He has failed in carrying out his duties as president," Yudhoyono was inducted with 60 percent of the vote on July on promises of clean government and economic growth.

Protesters took to Jakarta's streets in small numbers immediately after his speech late Monday and on Tuesday a demonstration in Makassar saw activists burn photos of Yudhoyono ... Source: AFP — and Vice President Boediono. AFP

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US to bare emissions target at climate confab

WASHINGTON—THE United States, under major pressure from other nations as one of the world's largest greenhouse-gas polluters, will present a target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in September, US officials said on Monday.

The development came as the European Union (EU) urged the United States and China to deliver greenhouse gas emissions targets at the long-anticipated summit, saying their delays were hindering global efforts to curb climate change.

For nearly a year the Obama administration has indicated it eventually would come up with specific targets for quick reductions in pollution that causes global warming as part of international negotiations. Those targets will come in stranded, officials said.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss the state of climate negotiations, said all countries, including the US, "will need to put their emissions targets on the table."

President Barack Obama's administration has united talking specific numbers without the backing of Congress, which is not expected to pass climate legislation until next year at the earliest. The official would not offer details about the US targets but said any US goal will reflect the embedded state of legislation on Capitol Hill and would not seek to get ahead of it.

A House-passed bill would cut heat-trapping pollution by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. A Senate bill seeks a 20 percent reduction during the same decade, but that number probably will come down to win the votes of more moderate Democrats.

Meanwhile, Obama is considering attending the climate conference. His decision is expected to be announced within a few days.

The US historically was the world's largest greenhouse gas polluter until China assumed ahead in 2006.

Two weeks before the United Nations-sponsored conference, the world's two biggest polluters have not put any firm bids on the table.

"Without a bid from the US or China, only half of emissions are covered," Sweden's environment minister Andreas Carlgren said after he led talks with other EU nations. He said an agreement was "totally dependent" on promises of cuts from both countries.

Chinese President Hu Jintao said last week that nations would do what they were able—referring to China's view that developing nations should not be required to make cuts. China has promised to curb emissions but has not said by how much.

Carlgren said any agreement also had to include pledges from developing countries, especially those with major economies, such as China, on curb emissions.

World leaders are no longer expected to reach a legally binding agreement in Copenhagen and are aiming instead for a political deal that would include commitments on reducing emissions and financing for developing countries to deal with climate change.

The EU's environment commissioner, Stavros Dimas, said nations still had a lot of work to do in Copenhagen because they have to set new emissions targets and agree on other actions to curb global warming, such as how to prevent widespread deforestation.

He said the talks should also set a timetable for 2010 meetings to work toward a full binding global treaty.

A panel of 154 scientists has recommended that developed countries make cuts of between 25 percent and 40 percent of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 to avoid a catastrophic rise in sea levels, harsher storms and droughts and climate disruption.

The EU aims for deeper cuts than most other industrialized nations, pledging to curtail from 2 21 percent cut before 1990 levels to 30 percent if others follow suit. By 2050, it wants to eliminate most emissions, with a target of up to 95 percent. AP

Man using Earth's resources too fast

WASHINGTON—HUMANITY WOULD need five Earths to produce the resources needed if everyone lived as profligately as Americans, according to a report issued on Tuesday.

As it is, humanity each year uses resources equivalent to nearly one-and-a-half Earths to meet its needs, said the report by Global Footprint Network, an international think tank.

"We are demanding nature's services—using resources and creating CO2 emissions—at a rate 44 percent faster than what nature can regenerate and replenish," the document said.

"That means it takes the Earth just under 18 months to produce the ecological services humanity needs in one year," it said.

And if humankind continues to use natural resources and produce waste at the current rate, "we will require the resources of two planets to meet our demands by the early 2030s," a gluttonous level of ecological spending that may cause major ecosystem collapse, the report said.

Global Footprint Network calculated the ecological footprint—the amount of land and sea needed to produce the resources a population consumes and absorb its carbon dioxide emissions—of more than 150 countries and of the entire globe.

80 percent stare

The think-tank worked out how many resources the planet has, how much humans use, and who is using what.

Back in 1961, the entire planet used just over slightly more than half of Earth's biocapacity.

Today 80 percent of countries use more biocapacity than is available within their borders. They import resources from abroad, deplete their own stocks and fill "waste sinks," such as the atmosphere and ocean, with carbon dioxide.

The average American has an ecological footprint of nine global hectares, or the equivalent of 27 US football fields.

The average European's footprint is half that size, but still too big to be sustainable in the long term.

At the other end of the scale are impoverished countries like Malawi, Haiti, Nepal or Bangladesh, where the footprints are around half a global hectare, or 1.25 acres—often not even enough to provide for basic food, shelter and sanitation, the report said.

But there are relatively easy measures that can be taken to slim the six.

"In most high income, industrialized countries like the US and European countries, the biggest part of the ecological footprint is the carbon footprint," Nicole Freeling, a spokesperson for the Global Footprint Network, told AFP.

Manage energy

"One of the biggest things such a country can do to reduce its ecological footprint is to manage energy more efficiently and effectively—for example, by leveraging renewable energy and clean technology on the one hand, and resource-efficient infrastructure and compact urban development on the other," she said.

Changing consumption habits can also reduce the global footprint.

"While people living at or below subsistence levels may need to increase their consumption, to move out of poverty, most affluent people can reduce consumption and still improve their quality of life," Freeling said. AFP

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AIG GLOBAL BOND FUND PHILIPPINES, INC.**	8.87%

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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Lady Falcons, Tigresses up (A35)

GINEBRA: Lervon Billy Mamaril (left) fouls Alaska's John Ferrer in a recent game (by Aero Jose, INQ)

Ginebra tries to get back on track vs TNT

By Marang R. Castillo

BARANGAY GINEBRA SAN MIG vs TALK 'N TEXT, powerhouses coming off defeats, clash tonight and struggling sides Coca-Cola and Rain or Shine battle each other for the right to move out of the cellar in the BFC PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Ginebra-Talk 'N Text game gets going at 7:30 p.m. with the Gin Kings hoping to bounce back from a nine-handling duty suffered at the hands of the Sta. Lucia Realtors and the defending champion Tropang Texters seeking to get back on track after stumbling opposite Alaska.

Those losses snapped winning runs for both Ginebra and Talk 'N Text which are both trying to creep closer to the league-leading Aces and the second-running San Miguel Beermen with the five round concluding at the end of the week.

At Smart Araneta Coliseum
Alaska 7 1
San Miguel 7 1
Ginebra 5 3
Talk 'N Text 5 3
Purefoods 4 4
Rain or Shine 3 5
Barangay Ginebra vs. Talk 'N Text
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra (Cortez-Cruz, Tiu, Yu, Ilad, Mamaril, Ayaay, Cruz, Cabagnot, Ebona, Ibanes, Lanete, Lee, Tubid) vs. Talk 'N Text (Asi Taulava, Jason Castro, Ilagan, Jaworski, Kelly, Lao, Mallari, Pinto, Reyes, Rosario, Sangalang, Sanchez, Sharma, Tiongson, Tolentino, Tuffin, Wilson)
Coach: Tim Cone
Alaska vs. Rain or Shine
9:45 p.m.—Alaska (Alapag, Baclao, Cahilig, Capacio, Cardona, Chua, Dillinger, Ferrer, Fonacier, Gamalinda, Hontiveros, Jazul, Mercado, Reavis, Salva, Sumalinog, Tiongco, Yap) vs. Rain or Shine (Belga, Bolick, Chan, Custodio, Demusis, Ilagan, Lassiter, Lastimosa, Norwood, Quinahan, Rodriguez, Salamat, Sharma, Tiongson, Tolentino, Tuffin, Wilson)
Coach: Yeng Guiao

At Smart Araneta Coliseum
Alaska 7 1
San Miguel 7 1
Ginebra 5 3
Talk 'N Text 5 3
Purefoods 4 4
Rain or Shine 3 5
Barangay Ginebra vs. Talk 'N Text
7:30 p.m.—Ginebra (Cortez-Cruz, Tiu, Yu, Ilad, Mamaril, Ayaay, Cruz, Cabagnot, Ebona, Ibanes, Lanete, Lee, Tubid) vs. Talk 'N Text (Asi Taulava, Jason Castro, Ilagan, Jaworski, Kelly, Lao, Mallari, Pinto, Reyes, Rosario, Sangalang, Sanchez, Sharma, Tiongson, Tolentino, Tuffin, Wilson)
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Coach: Yeng Guiao

ing 80-81 victory two weeks ago.

But when the Gilas Pilipinas returned to the floor a couple of nights later, they were back to the same hollow form against Purefoods, losing ugly, 85-103.

Rain or Shine normally lost its last two games, counting a no-hearing outing against game rivals Smart-Gilas.

At Smart will continue to see it out for the Tigers who clash with the Elasto Painters at 9 p.m. Both squads are seeking to wriggle out of the pits and pin themselves in contention when the final phase begins next week.

Rain or Shine, the only squad to have beaten Alaska so far, arrested a six-game slide with a convincing 103-85 victory over Purefoods last Friday night.

Ginebra will be coming off a 72-93 loss to Asa Lucia, but the Gin Kings are expected to be sharper tonight if only for the fact that they are well-rested.

Ron-ogden before that Wednesday game against the Realtors, the Kings orchestrated Burger King, 83-79.

Waiting for Caguioa's return

Mark Caguioa's return is still being awaited by the Kings and their team of fans. That because most of the scoring load on the shoulders of reigning MVP Jaypee Belencual, Ronald Tubid and Eric Menk.

Mac Cardona will be the usual focal point of the Talk 'N Text offense, which will again be quarterbacked by Jimmy Alapag.

Talk 'N Text took a 106-110 loss against the Aces last Friday, posting to escape a magnificent Billy Ilani 21 points (best in the third period).

That game also saw the ejection of coach Chot Reyes, who incurred two straight technical fouls, one for physical contact on a referee.

Alvin's darlings only RP girls in the hunt

By Cedrif P. Tupas

THE PHILIPPINES GOT OFF TO AN inauspicious start yesterday in the Pilipinas Juniors Tennis Invitational Week 1 tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Filipino netters Hershia Jay Dizon, Shaian Jane Capuhesan and Tamitha Nguyen fell by the wayside in the wake of tough foreign opposition, leaving the Philippine netters, Anna Christine and Anna Clarice, to carry the fight for the country.

Ortega suffered a heartbreaking 6-2, 4-6, 4-6 loss to Thailand's Sirbenlarn Ekmahkul; Capuhesan took a 2-0, 1-0 drubbing at the hands of top seed Yuki Ito of Japan, and the Filipino-American Nguyen absorbed a 1-6, 0-6 defeat at the hands of Chinese qualifier Xiao Qiongtan.

Anna Christine was playing Japanese Riko Sawayanagi while younger sister Anna Clarice was battling another Japan bet, qualifier Sari Baba, as presented.

The prospects for the country

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Mandaluyong City
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Alabang Town Center
Muntinlupa City
Ayala Center Cebu
Cebu City
Gateway
Cubao
Quezon City
Robinsons Galleria
Ortigas
Pasig City
Robinsons Place
Manila
Eastwood City
Libis
Quezon City
Robinsons Place
Iloilo City
Robinsons Place
Bacolod City
Robinsons Place
Dumaguete City
Robinsons Place
Antipolo City
Robinsons Place
Lipa City
Robinsons Place
Tacloban City
Robinsons Place
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Robinsons Place
Baguio City
Robinsons Place
Dagupan City
Robinsons Place
San Fernando City
Robinsons Place
Angeles City
Robinsons Place
Olongapo City
Robinsons Place
Lucena City
Robinsons Place
Batangas City
Robinsons Place
Calamba City
Robinsons Place
Cabanatuan City
Robinsons Place
San Jose del Monte City
Robinsons Place
Marikina City
Robinsons Place
Las Piñas City
Robinsons Place
Muntinlupa City
Robinsons Place
Taguig City
Robinsons Place
Pasay City
Robinsons Place
Caloocan City
Robinsons Place
Malabon City
Robinsons Place
Navotas City
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NOMADS, MENDIOLA CLASH IN UFL

Over the weekend, the United Football League held the final round of elimination games before the upcoming quarterfinals. Playing at Nomad Sports Club were Nomads Aloha Board Sports and Mendiola EGames; the match was set to decide who between the teams would move on to the next round with Kaya Digiprint in Group D.

Early on in the first round, Mendiola scored their first goal care of Bongbong Roxy Dones in the 20th minute. In reply, Nomads' Phil Connelly evened out the score in the 38th. The game was rougher than usual, with Mick Denison, Rowan Foggitt, and Darren Hartmann from Nomads and June Antonio Abalos, Paul Adrian Concepcion, and Bonnie Seto from Mendiola all receiving caution throughout both halves.

The second half saw Mendiola sink a swift goal on the 84th minute, doubling their score and putting them in a prime position to win the game but Darren Hartmann of Nomads evened out the score two all with a minute to spare. Despite the tie, Mendiola will move on to the quarterfinals based on their league standing.

The Cup quarterfinals this coming weekend will feature the following matchups: Navy Selecta v Loyola ATR KimEng, Army Philsen v Alabang Girls, Orient Freight, Air Force Rider v Mendiola EGames, and Kaya Digiprint v Union Ruby Project. For more UFL news, log on to http://www.footballalliance.ph today!

Results: Nomads Aloha Board Sports 3 - 2 Mendiola EGames; Sunken Garden 1 -3 Global Smartmatic; Kaya Digiprint 4 -0 Japan KLine; Diliman Victory Liner 1 - 1 Navy Selecta

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MAYWEATHER

Negotiations begin for Manny-Floyd clash

By Roy Luarca

EXPLOSIVE TALKS HAVE BEGUN FOR the fight the world wants to see—Manny Pacquiao versus Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Richard Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy Promotions, told ESPN.com, that he is meeting Bob Arum, top honcho of Top Rank and Pacquiao's promoter, next Sunday (yesterday in Manila) at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas to find common points with rebels to start talks for the showdown early next year.

"The first date I can flying to Las Vegas to meet with Bob (Arum) you have to keep on side to always making the fight," Schaefer told ESPN's Dan Rafael.

Arum, according to Rafael, confirmed the planned meeting, but the feature refused to talk about the specifics.

Both sides have repeatedly agreed to keep the negotiations close and silent for the fight projected to make each fighter richer by at least on $50 million.

Initially, Mayweather's camp was talking of still an 20 revenue split in favor but will later to settle for less following the crumbling scores of the Pacquiao-Miguel Cotto bout won by the Filipino superstar on May 14 also in Las Vegas.

That feat, which gave Pacquiao an unprecedented seven world titles in as many weight divisions, netted "1.25 million purse-per-hour buys and drew about 16,000 paying fans to the MGM Grand.

In contrast, Mayweather's fight against Jose Manuel Marquez in September only tallied 1.01 million PPV buys and drew 11,000 paying fans to the same venue.

Pacquiao's head trainer Freddie Roach, said in earlier interviews that a 50-50 split would be ideal.

Some boxing pundits are also proposing a 40-40 sharing with the remaining 20 percent going to the winner.

The unbeaten Mayweather, 40-0 with 25 KOs, was the pound-for-pound king when he entered two years ago.

So-Ivanchuk tiff fascinates; Laylo ousted

BEAUTY MAGISTER, RUSSIA—FILIPINO Grandmaster Mayboy Ico showed his rapid game prowess and advanced to the second round of the 2007 World Chess Cup at the Beauty Magistyk Festival of Arts.

The 26-year-old Ico swept his three rapid (25 minutes) tiebreak matches with GM Gelfand Barrios of Azerbaijan on Monday to forge a 6-4 victory over Sergei Rev. The 34-player second round of the six-game knockout competition.

In one fell swoop the fight for the Philippines after GM Darwin Laylo yielded to Mr. 26 and GM David Harmas of Czech Republic, 1-2, and joined compatriot GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. among the 64 first-round casualties.

It will be a rapid battle of ice for the second round, however, as the high-school prodigy from D. Francis Andrei Barcon will be battling Ukrainian GM Vasily Ivanchuk, ranked 12th in the world with an Elo of 2770.

The 40-year-old Ivanchuk, seeded ninth in the tournament, trounced Bosnian GM Alexei Brajnovic of Russia, 2-0, in their first round matchup.

Though Ivanchuk will be the highest-rated player he has ever faced, the country's top player with an Elo of 2646 is expected to put up a good fight based on his past numbers against super GMs.

In the 2006 Dresden Chess Olympiad, he stunned Chinese Hi Hua and drew with Latvian Alexei Shirov. Also is now playing for Spain, he also drew with GM Jaime Santos Latasa (2727) of Russia in last year's Amsterdam Chess Tournaments-he is 41 Ani, IMR.

After winning the first game, the 35th seed Ico was forced into the rapid tiebreak stage after he Gawaylo Cassimov to the second game.

Laylo, the pride of Lipa City making his second straight appearance in the event, stunned Harmas (Elo 2707) in the second game to send the matchmate the tiebreak stage.

They drew the first two rapid games, but Laylo yielded the next two games to lose out of contention.

Ivanchuk became the first Filipino casualty after he bowed to defending champion and No. 27 seed GM Gata Kamsky of the United States, 0.5-1.5.

Top seed GM Boris Gelfand of Israel led the ranks of the favorites to the second round after disposing of International Master Andrei Obodchuk of Russia, 1.5-.5.

Others who advanced to the second round are GM Vugar Gashimov of Azerbaijan, who finished 3rd Pelikan Sarwat of Egypt, 2-0, and third seed GM Peter Svidler of Russia, who dumped IM Jean Hebert of Canada, 2-0.

WESLEY So shows his toughest assignment yet in Nicolas Ivanchuk.

WORLD TEN-BALL

Alcano, Orcollo surprise RP pool bidders

By Cudell P. Tapus

IN THE CLEANEST INDICATION YET THAT Filipino billiard are slowly but surely nearing resolution, a younger Filipino contingent with big guns Ronnie Alcano and Dennis Orcollo of the Iloilo will see action in the Peoples Ten-Ball Championships starting today at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Skipping the maiden edition of the tournament last year because of differences with organizers, Alcano, the double world champion in 2006, and former world No. 1 Orcollo are spearheading the country's bid this time, along with world No. 7 Jeffrey de Luna and Dennisorchollo Pagtod, a surprise semifinalist in 2006.

"There's a good chance we're going to have a Filipino world champion," said Tito Mahalumoto, chair of the organizing Boys Sports.

"The title are almost totally resolved," he added at yesterday's press conference at the Heritage Hotel.

But conspicuously absent for the second straight year are pool legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante. Reyes, and Bustamante bagged the World Cup of Pool title in September.

Mahalumoto, also chair of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, said they are still hoping to reconcile with billiards patron Antonio "Tutoy" Payot, who supports the cause of the two pool icons.

The 128-man field from 46 countries, however, is not wanting in quality.

Englishman Darren Appleton is set to prove his victory against the field last year was no fluke.

"A lot of people questioned if I deserved to win, so I'm looking forward to playing again," said Appleton, who will be joined in the tournament by compatriot top 100 world Grand champion Daryl Peach.

World No. 1 Ralf Souquet of Germany and Alcano are gunning to complete a hat-trick of world titles in the six-day tournament. Souquet and Alcano have won world titles in 9-ball and 10-ball.

But Souquet believes the race for the title and the $60,000 purse is wide open. "At least 30 players have a big chance of winning," he said.

Ireland's Mike Immerzeel, who has won three of the last four tournaments in the international pool circuit, including the tough US Open, is seeking to cap his remarkable year with a victory here.

"It would be a nice addition to my collection," said Immerzeel, who also expressed delight in a newer "unsolicited" in Philippine billiards.

ALCANO

ORCOLLO

Red Oilers bounce back, cut down Buddies

SERIES TIED! Lilo Cabezut
1 run—Lilo Silva of Capital Drillers
2 hits—Lilo Silva and Cabezut Red Shirt

By Jose Manzano

CEBU CITY—THE QUEZON RED OILERS made up for a humiliating setback at the hands of the M. Lhuillier Bronze Pathfinders Cebu by subduing the Smart Pampanga Buddies, 84-52, last night in the Smart Lipa Filipinas Conference 3 Super Leg at the Cebu Coliseum here.

Firing on all cylinders, the Red Oilers were on track to narrow the margin of their Cebu debacle right from the start, erasing several double-digit leads in the second period that allowed them to pull away for good.

Jonathan Peters and Hafer Abadeagon did most of the damage as they relentlessly punctured the Internal defense of the Buddies to spearhead Quezon to a 1-1 record in the super leg where the top team automatically gets one of two available spots in the finals.

The Buddies, who bowed on the 16-points of Al Magpayo, couldn't find their range shooting just 30 percent (17 of 57) from the field to absorb a second consecutive defeat following their setback against the Bronze Original Mercado Moodies.

With the 6-foot-3 Mondragon all over the floor, the Oilers jumped the gun on the Buddies, racing to a 13-7 lead that ballooned to a double-digit advantage at halftime through the efforts of Gani Dungcanon, Floyd Dedicatoria and Bob Labagnita.

"We came out aggressive from the start. I think that was the key," said Quezon coach Oliver Bunyi.

Lhuillier Bronze Pathfinders Cebu stretched its unbeaten run to 17 games after shellacking the Red Oilers, 76-51, Monday night.

The score:
QUEZON RED OILERS (84)—Peters 15, Labagnita 13, Mondragon 12, Nuno 7, Dedicatoria 8, Dungcanon 6, Reynoso 6, Cuda 5, Bonifacio 5, Abad 3, Lacanaria 3, Cruz 2.
PAMPANGA BRONZE BUDDIES (52)—Magpayo 16, Agustin-Fuentes 7, Tinsay 5, Alcaraz 5, Flamiano 5, Dio 5, Espiritu 3, Arevalo 2, R. Guardiola 2, Ferrer 1, Sangalang 0, Tan 0, Bolivar 0.
Scores: 21-7, 32-16, 57-35, 84-52

Alvin's darlings only RP bets standing

From page A12

look good in the tougher bout division, where Australian Open junior double champion Francis Casey Alcantara notched the top seeding following the host-country withdrawal of Hideki Chung-geng of Taiwan, who is interestingly Alcantara's partner when they won the grand slam crown early this year.

The superbly coached Alcantara is set to play Jun Kun Tzu of Chinese Taipei tomorrow.

Another Filipino, Alan Ky, dropped a 0-6, 0-6 decision to South Korean Yun Chung Woo in the first round.

The lone survivor of the first round in the highly competitive girls' division came courtesy of newbie Belgian Jessie de Santos, who handled out fourth seed Egyptian Rana Sherif Ahmed, 6-3, 2-6, 6-0, to forge a second round showdown with Khairulkiri.

In other matches, Tanay Sharah Placang Dal of Vietnam prevailed over Rona Lantoc, 6-3, 6-1, of host nation Anne Tyndyn of Russia smashed Israel's Rahelo Hetzik, 6-1, 7-6 (7) in another tale-the-score second along with Linh Dao-nhi's Raffaldo Vin Bandelaman, who stunned Thailand's Jiangsang Lawanboonsong, 6-3, 6-2.

By The Choice
At Santa Ana Park

Mayol plays his cards right this time

IN HUDDLE

Herb Cahis

IT MIGHT HAVE been about 10 years ago when I first heard of Rodel Mayol, a promising boxer from Marikina City.

Ten years I heard his name from veterans mediamen Ronnie Nakanaki, Jr., who covered all of Mayol's fights for television and although in opposition about him, RT would earnestly Mayol's every chance to finally realize his dream of winning the Universal Pacific middleweight title when he wasn't even 20 years old.

Mayol was making waves then and it looked like he was really headed for the big time.

But, little by little, he dropped out of the limelight and was soon forgotten. Except now and then his name would pop up in conversations, but he really didn't have any accomplishment big enough to fit the headlines. Pretty soon he faded from memory.

Rumor has it that the boxer then dubbed "Batang Manilenas" was in jail, good and bad the gossiped, he became great, except that he was not managed well. Thus, nothing came out of his boxing career until last Sunday.

Aside from managerial problems, Rodel was having personal woes," said Ronnie. "He was already married at the time and wanted to bring his young bride with him to Los Angeles where he was based. It took some time before he could do that and he got intimidated by the problem."

Ronnie said Mayol did not snatch altogether from the boxing scene, although it might look that way to some people.

"What you really must admire about this guy is his determination," said Ronnie. "He would not give up until he won. He made the attempts before he won Interclub's World Boxing Council light flyweight title."

And he won it fair and square, despite the fact that everyone in the camp of the dethroned champion, Edgar Sosa, who accused Mayol of headbutting him intentionally. That should have caused Mayol's disqualification, the camp said.

Now that Mayol is back in the limelight, Filipinos will be waiting for his next appearance. Herrera hoping Rodel continues to play his cards right. He's only 27.

* * *

The invitation to the welcome party for Manny Pacquiao was sent to my address while I was in Taipei for a reunion with the Taipei American School.

Manuel Lhuillier and UMA 7 were hosting the celebration for the seven-division world champion with a grand show featuring the hosting to a real estate of GMA-7 biggest stars.

"You shouldn't miss it," Hannah said. "It will be held at the atrium of the SM Mall of Asia and Manny has prepared a surprise number for everyone."

So, I didn't ask her the question you and I both wanted to ask.

* * *

The first question I asked Hannah when I inquired about the welcome party days after I came back was, did Manny let the guests and the hosts wait for long, like he did to us?

I was surprised to get Hannah's answer. "He arrived on time with wife Jinkee, their kids and Manny Bonivista," she said.

Hannah serenaded everyone with the hit songs—the promised surprise number. The show, hosted by Cristy Abrahan and Arnold Ignacio, featured live by the network, where Pacquiao has two top-selling shows: "Pinoy Records" and "Share Me Da Money."

"I thank God for all the blessings that He has given me," Pacquiao said during the party. "This victory is not only for myself and my family but for all Filipinos. I am dedicating my GMA record as a tribute to Filipinos coming-ups as sagalong guys as calling parade."

Tall, hefty Iranians thwart RP U-16 five

WITH HEIGHT ON ITS SIDE, IRAN OVERpowered Mobin Emre Filipinas, 76-70, in a key quarterfinal match Monday night in the Pilar-style U-16 Men's Championship at the Bacoor Sandiganbayan Sports Center, Molino III.

The Iranians, who beat Tokyo in the Filipinos in a pocket tournament in Cebu two weeks back, won several battles at the paint as the Mideasts took the active inside after firing miserably from afar.

Hefty thirteen Ali Farhidi shot 20 points and hauled down 17 rebounds and power guard Ali Ansari added 18 points and seven boards as Iran dealt the Philippines its first defeat in the tournament.

The Filipinos must prevail against a tough Indian team, to a match being played as penultimate, to advance to the semifinals.

A win over the Australians will set the stage for a Philippines-China showdown with Iran clinching with South Korea for the other spot in the championship match.

The tournament daughter two seats to the 20 in Elite World U-17 Men's Championship in Hamburg, Germany, next year.

"It's tough, but very doable," RP coach Aric Almirañez said of their chances against the Chinese, who humbled the Iranians, 123-51, in their quarterfinal face-off.

Bader Bonotan, who jumped on 20 points, sparked an RP rally from a 12-point hole and pushed the Batmanis ahead, 60-59, in the early stages of the fourth quarter.

But Farhidi, stocky and almost immovable in the lane, restored order for the Iranians offense and the tickers surged back to take a 69-point lead going into the last five minutes.

"We did make a drop-back early, and spent a lot of energy catching up," said Almirañez. "They capitalized on their inside game, they attacked our big men and put us in foul trouble."

Iran's Serbian countryman, Sascha Mrdic, noted that the Filipinos failed to get their rhythm from the outside.

"They need to challenge us underneath," said Mrdic, a dean friend of Smart Utility center Sujiu Tanyuan. "We had no chance but to put our shots to our advantage." Jane Saraveza

Bacoor: MBP 20, Bonotan 20, Yared 11, Zamarro 9, Magli 9, Ambot 3, Hernandez 4, Quintanilla 2, Tagbalpas 2, Rodriguez 2, Mendoza 0, Cruz 0, Sanchez 0.
Iran: Farhidi 20, Ansari 18, Nasiri 11, Ali 9, Nejad 7, Ali 5, Sarfi 5, Rahimi 2, Ghaemi 1, Dost 2, Sharifi 0, Rahimi 0.
Quarters: 13-11, 30-28, 46-41, 70-51

ANGELI Tabuguro of Santo Tomas (right) blocks Pat Bartolo's (Far Eastern's) first Gonzales in the third set of yesterday's Shakey's V-League semifinal match. JOHN MARK ZAIN

Lady Falcons, Tigresses up

Take 1-0 Shakey's semis leads

By Cedrik P. Tupaz

ANGELA BENITEZ CAME THROUGH with the best individual performance in the Shakey's V-League in two years to lead Adamson to a thrilling 25-17, 22-25, 22-25, 25-11, 15-11 victory over Far Eastern yesterday that gave the Lady Falcons a 1-0 lead in their second conference best-of-three semifinal series at the FEUD Diliman Arena in San Juan.

Combining brilliantly with setter Jennifer Pinili, the 5-foot-8 Benitez notched a career-best 27 points to tie the league scoring record set by Ateneo's Thai import Ilhiwet Santos in November 2007.

"That's the result when the line confidence in herself and when she trusts her teammates," Adamson coach Dakoi Poste said in Filipino.

University of Santo Tomas also moved within a victory of clinching a finals seat with a relatively easy 25-20, 25-22, 25-20 triumph over the Eastern University in the second game.

Angeli Tabuguro fired 19 points, while Alec Blanc and rookie Mary Joanne Bernardino each had 11 each for the Tigresses, who relied on their superb blocking to thwart the Lady Tamaraws' attack in dummy.

UST held a 12-6 advantage in blocks with Tabuguro and Maika Ortiz accounting for four blocks each.

"Everything, from our blocking to our reception and our attack, just clicked for us today," said UST coach Gerard Dolor Jimenez, who is hoping to stop the España-based school in a record fifth title.

Pinlinez, who succeeded multi-awarded setter Aiza Maizo-Pontillas in Adamson, helped the Lady Falcons end the season conference outing of the conference with 81 sets.

Ali Gentile, who was sparingly used in the previous conference, also made a solid contribution with a personal conference-high 24 points.

Had the day belonged to the Negros Occidental native Benitez, who delivered nine of her total output in a stirring fifth-set performance.

Benitez scored five of the Lady Falcons' first nine points for a 9-3 lead. She was at the backline when the Lady Stags fought back to knot the game, 10-12.

But the Adamson skipper made sure there was a glorious ending to her efforts, finishing off the Lady Stags with back-to-back hits and a block on top UST hitter Joy Benito that sealed Adamson's win in six hard-and-40 minutes.

Archers, Eagles battle separate foes today

MBA: TNT (Time Kpark Ross Pedd)		
2 to 0 — Lyceum (11 left)		
11 to — Ateneo (12 points)		

By Jaemion W. Poya

THREE INFAMY ATTEMPTS AND 14 little links on separate opponents in the "Season 107 of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League (PCCL) today over a month after meeting contending foes in the season's UAAP basketball tournament.

The Blue Eagles, returning to action since capturing their second straight UNAP basket crown, clash with the Lyceum Pirates at 4 p.m. at the Ateneo Sports Arena in Pasig City.

But the rookie-laden Green archers, the tournament's defending champion, aim to rebound from their first UAAP stint against the Letran Knights at 1 p.m.

While the Eagles seemed an outright battle, the Archers look a longer route heading to the final phase of the league that gathers the top collegiate teams in the country.

The Archers, who crashed out of the UAAP Final Four for the first time, secured a "lowest 10" tier after sifting the Metro Manila South Luzon Bowl rounds in Naga City two weeks ago.

Freestyler Ateneo Rubels Al Hassani, Jet Reyes and Manny Bacdao, the Eagles bases at the heavy favorite against the late entry Pirates.

Lyceans, the latter Intercollegiate Athletic Association champion, advanced following the disqualification of rivals qualified to University of Manila Hotels.

The Hawks fielded two ineligible players in the Metro Manila North Luzon rounds, prompting league officials to award the slot to the runners-up Pirates.

The tournament only allows teams to field players who can return in their respective league's finals.

Middleweight coach Percy Hamarro will call the shots in his final tournament with the Archers before officially turning over the reins to younger builders and assistant Bach-coat Jose.

And for sophomore Joshua Pehlt, the Archers aim to exhale their winning streak after sweeping their three assignments in the Naga rounds.

NAT'L SHORT COURSE MEET

800 tankers plunge into action Friday

By Jose Mariano

ABOUT 600 SWIMMERS IN 11 different age categories plunge into action starting Friday in the Pasig National Short Course Swimming Championship at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Pasig City.

Philippine Aquatic Sports Association president Mark Joseph said the three-day kickoff of the G League meets is 17 regions across the country.

Individual and team titles are up for grabs in the four-day championships, which will gauge the athletes' skill levels and serve as a key component of Pasig's national team identification program.

"S-League stands for Grassroots and Pasig's theme of growth by swimming," said Joseph. "It will serve as a qualifying tournament and the gathering of the top local swimmers."

The national short course meet is the first for Pasig in 10 years.

Joseph said Pasig will see more of the age equipment such as the Colorado timing system made pads to achieve international swimming federation (FINA) standards.

The 50-meter pool at Rizal will also be divided into six 25-meter pools so Pasig can hold more races.

A side event of the championships is the first Pasig Technical Congress officials will pitch the Pasig's national sports association's future programs.

"We will discuss the direction Pasig needs to take in the next five years," said Joseph.

HAPPY! Pacquiao-para SEA Games-bound athletes and officials on Friday's welcome downtown motorcade party hosted by the Pasenyo ng Bayaning Adres. With Pacquiao are former Caloocan mayor Boy Malonzo and PSA officials Mark and Andy Soriano

Pacman vows to help athletes

BOXING SUPERSTAR MANNY PACQUIAO has appealed for more support for the national athletes vying spots in the Southeast Asian Games next month.

At the send-off dinner hosted by the Pasenyo ng Bayaning Adres (PBA) party list for the athletes last Friday, Pacquiao said it's time all sectors of society come together to help the sports flag bearers.

"I was deeply bothered that even Filipino athletes have not achieved what I have," Pacquiao, a founding member of the party list group, said during the event held at the Century Park Hotel.

"I believe that the PBA can make a difference. Our athletes will fight for us and they are in need of our help."

The Commission on Elections-recognized party list group aims to promote the welfare of Filipino athletes. Antonio W. Payo

Big slow-pitch softball action fires off Sunday

FINA PADILLA AND EDITOR CLAIRE DE TORRES' sister and top qualifiers Cebuana Lhuillier and Mandaue City in the second game of the finals of the Manila Slow-pitch Softball League Fiesta Cup finals off this Sunday at the Rizal's Sports Complex in Pasig City.

The winner of the series will then face the loser of the second game in Game 3. The Game 2 and Game 3 series will dispute the title to a winner-take-all affair, with the losers clashing for third place.

In last Saturday's playoffs, Fina Padilla-named BYOB, 13-2, and Columbia, 13-0, respectively, to take the No. 1 spot while Entrust had to go through a subpar, bumper Columbia, 5-2, prevailing over BYOB, 11-2, and getting back at Columbia when it mattered, 3-1, in the semifinals.

Top-seed and regular fall season champion Cebuana Lhuillier and Mandaue, the No. 2 qualifier, advanced to the finals outright.

Benny Bolipata is the commissioner of the tournament being supported by Cebuana Lhuillier, Fina Padilla, and Le Grand de Boracay. More Anthony Reyes

SPORTSWATCH

16-pace 'Rambulan' stagfest

SIXTEEN SWIMMERS FROM DIFFERENT regions had the qualifiers with no points early in the Palarong Pambansa Summer 4-day Derby swim fun joust Tuesday.

Six of the top qualifiers came from SLC Mister Manila, host Sun Bacolod. Brian Jose Bienvenido and Jonah Jose Cuenta. Dumaguete City topped the Girls' 50-meter butterfly qualifiers with 29.16, beating its catch by fanciers.

It happening 2 200-meters have so far posted 30 swims. But last 400-meter round for the 100-meter and the 5.0 will be staged on Nov. 30, Dec. 2 and 3.

Pasay 'Bakbakan' finals Friday

EIGHTEEN MEN DECLARE EXPECTED TO BE THE CREAM OF THE CROP OF THE Palarong Pambansa Summer 3-5-Day Derby finals from athletes for the Pasay City contest.

The 4-day final round features participants with scores of 2, 4, 6 and 8 points. The PCC also declared the 110 flight one-day meet Friday last week.

To qualify for the money round, participants must score at least 7 points.

COMMENTARY

Pacquiao rests, Fil-Ams turn to old flame

By Percy O. Dolla

SACRAMENTO—WITH THEIR THRILL HUNGover Manny Pacquiao's historic seventh title belt in as many weight divisions, Filipino-American sports fans are again wasting their fancy to a secondary fling—football—and to an old flame—football.

The short National Football League (NFL) season is rolling through cuts, short and sweets to smash its seventh week, with top echelon teams Denver, Indianapolis, New England and New Orleans on top of the standings in the American and the National conferences.

Meanwhile, the NBA has barely started its marathon with defending champion Los Angeles in a pestilence to give its stride a wide welcome look on the league.

Lately, action off the court has garnered more attention than the grueling grind in the world's 82-rush-come-May or bust.

Byron Scott, the NBA's coach of the year only two years ago, has been fired by the winner of the slow-starting New Orleans Hornets. Don Nelson, after being degraded forward Stephen Jackson to Charlotte, insisted poised to call it a career after strong association with the Golden State Warriors.

The upheaval in the world's premier professional tournament but closer to home today when the Maloof family, owners of the same entire NBA owner's, made a cruel fling, unceremonious. To reunion emphasis on the struggling Sacramento Kings, the Maloofs are dissolving the WNBA Monarchs franchise.

The move but has nowhere like a thunderbolt. Suddenly, the purple brick road traveled by the Monarchs to the WNBA would title to 2007 was back to almost nil.

"I was shocked," said Fil-Am Selected Monarchs was a chosen girls' high school and collegiate standout, in response to the Monarchs' disbanding. "It's like a family thing so suddenly."

But more bit harder at City Hall. Alleged sexual misconduct that has dogged Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson for years has resurfaced with the release of a Congressional report last week.

The former NBA star allegedly arranged a payoff of $1,000 a month to a young woman after the second time of touching her inappropriately years ago. The accusation was contained in a report on the firing of a federal inspector who had been investigating Johnson's nonprofit. Hope organization for improper use of federal grant money.

Johnson, who Fil-Am helped get elected as the first African-American mayor of California's capital, is an ardent NBA supporter. He has recently formed an advisory group to build a new NBA stadium to replace aging arco arena, home of the Kings.

(Percy Dolla is a former Manila journalist now based in Sacramento, California. He posts thoughts regularly on Inquirer Sports. —Ed)

Publisher & Philanthropist ● Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

SPORTS

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Spurs halt Bucks' win streak; Grizzlies win

PORTLAND Trail Blazers' Greg Oden (left) and Sharrel Wheeler reach for the rebound during their game against the Chicago Bulls. AFP/AFP

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—TIM DUNCAN scored 28 points and had 12 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs beat Milwaukee, 112-96, on Monday to end the Bucks' three-game winning streak.

Reserve Matt Bonner chipped in with 23 points, including six three-pointers, as the Spurs made it back to back wins to improve to 6-6 this season.

"We're moving the ball really well. We have really good shooters and when we can get those guys open shots it's best for us," Duncan said afterwards.

"We've also getting a lot of good play from our bench and that's what we're going to need if we're going to win games like this."

Jason Kidd was reported by Milwaukee (10-4) with 20 points while rookie Brandon Jennings added 22, well down on his 28.5 season average and his 55-point haul against the Golden State Warriors earlier this month.

"I don't think Jason [Jennings] was having adults. He went to the rim a few times in transition and came up empty," Bucks coach Scott Skiles said.

"They played pretty good defense on him. He had some looks that he has been making and just couldn't connect tonight."

The Spurs trailed 36-49 at halftime but surged ahead with a 37-24 advantage in the third quarter, 15 points coming from Duncan.

George Hill finished with 14 points off the bench for San Antonio who swept 11 games from Roger Mason and Richard Jefferson who were playing against his old team after being traded from Milwaukee in the offseason.

Grizzlies 116, Kings 105

At Memphis, Rudy Gay scored 26 points and Cuttino Mobley added 20 as Memphis won consecutive games for the first time this season with a fourth straight win.

Mike Conley finished with 18 points and Hakim Warrick had 16 and Mike Conley added 11 points and seven assists.

Brooke Tyrese Evans led the Kings with 28 points, connecting on 10-of-18 from the field, and Kenyon Rodriguez had 18.

Trail Blazers 122, Bulls 98

At Portland, Greg Oden tied a career high with 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 to help Portland beat Chicago.

Oden, the first pick of the 2007 NBA draft, missed one of his eight shots from the field and added 12 rebounds. Aldridge pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds.

The Blazers had five players score in double figures. Brandon Roy had 18 points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Andre Miller scored 16 and Rudy Fernandez 15.

Luol Deng scored 25 points and John Salmons added 22 for the Bulls.

Clippers 91, Timberwolves 87

At Los Angeles, Al Thornton scored 11 points and Baron Davis made a clinching layup with 0.3 seconds remaining after missing his first nine shots to help the Los Angeles Clippers extend Minnesota's losing streak to 13 games.

Davis' streak of 400 consecutive regular-season games with at least one field goal was in jeopardy until he drove the lane for a layup after dribbling the ball for an hour, 43 seconds.

He finished with two points and six assists in 23 minutes. Reuters, AP

D'Antoni says Knicks are still peaking

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

NEW YORK—AS PART OF A SELLOUT, sun-kissed crowd filled rest of the Madison Square Garden, a lot like it does in New York Knicks games, let out a frustrated yell: "Now you in 2010, go Lebron!"

It was a frustrating Sunday afternoon for the supposedly rejuvenated Knicks, who were coming off back-to-back victories in the NBA. They ended up thrashing it with a struggling Kevin Garnett hitting a 19-footer as time expired for a 107-105 Celtics victory.

Still, Mike D'Antoni doesn't believe that fans have nothing more to look forward to than next year's free agent market, where the Knicks will try to lure LeBron James out of Cleveland.

D'ANTONI

"We've got 60 games left." D'Antoni told reporters during a press briefing after the game. "We can be pleased with our effort and I think we overcame it really well."

Some standing reserve on the offseason floor seemed to point to the Knicks freeing cap space to become a major player in some team's crash-for-signal pool, it seemed as if the team had been sending a message to the fans not to expect too much of the team this year.

They had been pleading under the shadows of the New York Yankees, who had recently won the World Series. Sunday afternoon wasn't even an exception: The Yankees version once at bull-time, when the Knicks honored Yankees manager Joe Girardi for helping some point involved in a road accident.

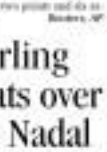
But after refusing to meet LeBron reportedly for three days following the season-end heavily toying with the idea of signing Allen Iverson, the Knicks generated a palpable buzz of electricity as they prepared to face the Celtics.

Fifty-three basketball minutes later, the sellout crowd of 18,790 let out a collective groan as Garnett and the Celtics celebrated a team victory.

D'Antoni, though, was encouraged by what he saw.

"I'm really confident with the guys," he said. "We had a good distribution of points and that's what we need."

Soderling repeats over tame Nadal



SODERLING

LONDON—Robert Nadal lost to Robin Soderling for the second straight time, falling, 6-4, 6-4, Monday in their opening round-robin match at the ATP World Tour Finals.

Soderling, who handed the Spaniard his first ever loss on clay at the French Open this year, powered his way through the Group B match by sinking a hard forehand with a solid backhand to Andy Nadal running all over the court on the O2 dome.

"He is a big player in this surface, so it is difficult," Nadal said. "I didn't play really bad. But in the important moments, I didn't have the calm, the necessary calm, to win these matches against the best players of the world."

In the late match, Novak Djokovic rallied from a poor start to beat Nikolay Davydenko, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, and secure a step closer to the semifinals of the season-ending tournament for the top eight players in the world.

The second-ranked Nadal can still advance, but likely needs to win his two remaining group matches. He can also still clinch the year-end No. 1 ranking from Roger Federer, but Monday's loss hasn't helped his chances.

On Tuesday, four-time champion Federer will face Andy Murray in Group A. Both players won their opening matches.

In the other match, 18-time champion Juan Martin del Potro will play Fernando Verdasco. AFP

Ochoa grabs LPGA best player plum

HOUSTON—LORENA OCHOA EDGED out Youth Korea's Shin Ji-yai to become the LPGA player of the year for a fourth successive time on Monday after Swede Annika Sorenstam won the season-ending LPGA Tour Championship.

Mexican Ochoa easily finished the 6-and hole for a five-under-par 67 at The Houstonian Golf and Country Club to finish above in second place at 11 under 205, two strokes behind Sorenstam who signed off with a 68.

Shin, who led Ochoa in the player of the year race going into the weather-delayed tournament, had to settle for a share of eighth place at six under after closing with a 72.

The Inspector-Int Korean, playing with fellow rookie Nordqvist in the final group, would have overtaken Ochoa with a birdie at the last but her chip from green-side rough slid past the right edge of the cup.

Ochoa ended her season with three victories and 15 top-10 finishes in 23 starts.

"This has been the toughest and for sure the one that I am going to enjoy the most," the slim Mexican said. /kwaya

Tordo, Sta. Cruz seize early lead in Mayor Lim basketball

THE BOYS FROM SAMPAL STREET, TONDO, Manila—one of the 100 in the Tony Manila presided at the opening of the Mayor Alfredo S. Lim Tri-Zone Basketball Championship—the Interzone Basketball Championship over the memorial of the late Andrew Gonzalez in Manila.

Edward Tordo scored 12 of his team's total as Tordo dumped the host Sampaloc Street, Sampaloc, 22-18. The Sta. Cruz rookie shared the top 10-point spoke, 15-12, to start their title bids in a bright note in the month-long tournament organized by the City of Manila.

RP hopes to follow boxing success at golf's World Cup

QUE

DONGGUAN, CHINA—THE PHILIPPINES' Angelo Que and Mars Pucay believe that their participation at this week's Omega Mission Hills World Cup will give their fellow countrymen another opportunity to cheer on their sporting heroes just like how their feisty boxers Manny Pacquiao has done.

While golf may not command a huge following as other boxing or basketball in the sporting mad country, Que hopes that it can all change if they play true to form and create an impact this week.

"I don't think anybody can match Manny Pacquiao's achievements right now, especially when it comes to representing the country," said Que, the 2006 Philippine Open winner and two-time Asian Tour winner. "He's the No. 1 athlete and he's doing a great job.

"However, if we win, then I'll be quiet as we can lift golf up to another level in the Philippines."

Pucay and Que qualified for their second straight Presidents Cup appearance after finishing fifth for 10th last year and are delighted to be back after missing one of the three reserved spots at the qualifiers in August.

"Hopefully we can do better," said Que, who has captured two top-10 finishes on the Asian Tour this season and ties in 21st spot on the Asian Tour Order of Merit. "Mars is in good form and I've been hitting the ball quite good, so hopefully we can help each other out this week."

Like Que, Pucay also has two top-10 finishes on the Asian Tour this season and is looking forward to renew his partnership with Que in the Omega Mission Hills World Cup which tees off on Thursday.

"We hope to play well again this year by using the same strategy as last year," said Pucay. "We understand each other's game very well and we should be in for a good week if we play well." —Adam Dan Sitoy

BACK TO BACK Thomas Christopher Torres delivers the defense of a Xavier-Gaguyan duo who defender via route on against-high 24 rebounds, hooking La Salle Green Hills to a 91-71 victory during the PBL Best MBP Players title finals on Sunday. The win gave the Marvin Hernandez-mentored LSGH a second straight Pioneer title crown. Janitorial duo was also triumphant that day as the Xavier College Qyan in Baguio, capping a third consecutive SBP division title as the nemesis of its Zocan cancer school, 71-49.

URCC XV: 'The Punisher' still pinweight champion

By Jose Navarro

ANGHO SPECIALIST ROY "THE PUNISHER" Borreyan dominated Alvin Ramirez with an assortment of leg kicks and takedowns to keep the pinweight title Saturday in the Cole 40-Universal Bradley Combat Champs card by XV "Onslaught" at the World Trade Center.

The Lakay Wushu fighter unleashed various shots to the body and never wavered against Ramirez to earn the nod of the judges in a unanimous decision that stretched Borreyan's streak to seven wins.

Lakay Wushu's Mark Sangoza and Jeanes fight heavyweight Carlo Badcana, however, weren't so lucky against their foreign opponents.

Aaron Cruz of Guam easily disposed of Sangoza to retain the heavyweight crown while Badcana dropped his undefeated fight but against reigning champion Zhong The Queen of Grima.

Combining speed and power, Cruz, 26, pulled off a smashing pulldrive in the first round that floored the referee to save Sangoza—not to be scheduled 10-flight mixed martial arts affairs.

Wrestling champion Marcus Valdo, a two-time SEA Games gold medalist, was also impressive after sinking the heavyweight crown from Vicente Dipaco.

Lito Rad O. Manzo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Manera

BUSINESS

Peso seen rallying to 43 to $1 in 2010

Funds flowing to emerging markets due to weak dollar

By Doris C. Dumlao

BRITISH BANKING GIANT HSBC SEES A LONG-TERM bullish trend for the peso against the dollar and a possible avoidance of any interest rate increase by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas through 2010 unless inflation shoots up sharply in the latter part of next year.

In a briefing yesterday, HSBC country economist Wilfrido Sikat said it said when the central bank needs to curtail its accommodative monetary policy alongside its overseas peers, the BSP may first resort to sustaining more foreign currency swaps with local banks first the three- to six-month contracts currently in its books.

Sikat said the BSP would likely not be in a hurry to tighten interest rates given the need to support the growth momentum especially through 2010, a presidential election year. At the same time, he noted that there was no danger of the peso sharply depreciating against the dollar, which in the past was sufficient reason for the BSP to tighten interest rates.

Based on HSBC's long-term currency forecasts, the peso is likely to gain against the dollar in the years ahead. The local currency is seen trading this year at 46 against the greenback, strengthening to 43.50 by end-2010 and further to P42.50 by end-2011.

"A weak US dollar would always point toward a stronger peso," Sikat said, noting that low interest rates in the United States were prompting flows of capital into emerging countries and creating a downward pressure on the greenback.

The upward pressure on emerging market currencies is, in turn, now prompting some central banks to resist sharp local currency appreciation by building up their foreign exchange reserves.

In the case of the Philippines, he said the country was starting to benefit from a global rebound, with export sectors now recovering, aside from the govern-

READ ON

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Stocks rise on Wall St. rally

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.8 PERCENT higher yesterday, buoyed by gains on Wall Street and soaring gold prices, dealers said.

The composite index added 20.66 points to 3,974.66, while the all shares index added 0.30 percent or 6.83 points to 1,900.43.

Turnover was heavy with 2.34 billion shares worth P4.16 billion changing hands, though decliners outnumbered advancers, 74-49. Fifty-six other issues finished unchanged.

The peso traded at 47.030 to the dollar in the morning.

"Many investors are still cautious, wanting to preserve recent gains," Vicente Rodrigo of BPI Online Securities told Dow Jones Newswires.

He said the key index should expand its trading range to between 3,900 and 3,985 points today, with the overnight performance of US stocks as the likely key to investor sentiment.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 1.39 percent higher Monday.

Recent dollar weakness has encouraged traders to move into riskier assets (including gold, which surpassed the $1,178 an ounce mark in both London and New York trading overnight before falling back slightly).

Century Peak Metal Holdings soared 18.24 percent to P6.40 while Philex Mining grew 4.11 percent to P10.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose 2.16 percent to P3,600. AFP

Sending e-mails now as easy as 'texting' via telco service

By Paulo C. Montecillo

SENDING E-MAILS OUTTER DO has finally become as easy and affordable as "texting."

The country's leading mobile service provider Smart Communications Inc. on Tuesday launched a new service that would allow subscribers to send e-mails from their mobile phones as much as they want for a fixed monthly fee.

Company officials said the new flat rate data promo, which would be available to post-paid subscribers for P299 a month on top of their bills, would pave the way for the increased use of broadband technology through cellular phones.

Broadband service is deemed the next major growth area for local telecommunications firms since growth of the "voiceonly" market, referring to traditional voice call and short messaging service (SMS) offerings, appears to have leveled off.

The company announced it's now offering a new network of its top rival Nokia.

On Tuesday the Finish mobile phone maker launched its newest model in the Philippine market, the E71.

The new phone's key features, according to company officials, is its Nokia Messaging application, which is similar to the "Push" e-mail application on other mobile phone brands.

The push e-mail capability allows users to directly access their personal e-mail accounts using their mobile phones, without having to connect using a browser.

"Smart is pleased to be the first operator to bring Nokia Messaging in the Philippines. More and more consumers—even nonbusiness users—are looking for a reliable service that allows them to have e-mail pushed automatically to their handsets while on the move," Smart wireless consumer division head Dominic Ongsiako said.

The new application aims to lessen the cost of data services to encourage existing mobile phone subscribers to use e-mail.

"When used on the Nokia E71, Nokia Messaging makes it efficient for us to say push e-mail economy, providing an unprecedented ease of use and convenience to our customers," Ongsiako said.

Power grid operator to be guided by STARS

By Amy R. Remo

THE NATIONAL GRID CORP. of the Philippines yesterday forged a partnership with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), to obtain the power grid operator with real-time weather information for contingency planning.

Under the agreement, a Storm Tracking Alert and Relay System (STARS) will be set up to allow Pagasa to inform power grid officials of the arrival or threat of any disturbance.

"The system is expected to pave the way for quick implementation of contingency plans and activities that will help prepare for, and mitigate, the adverse effects of natural disasters on both transmission facilities and power consumers," NGCP said in a statement.

Pagasa, which is the country's main weather information agency, has committed to fully assist NGCP in efforts to prepare for weather-related emergencies.

Pagasa will provide NGCP with tropical cyclone updates, hourly weather data from Doppler radar, hourly update of weather satellite images from Japan Meteorological Agency and numerical weather prediction model outputs every eight hours.

Data on monitored rainfall and water level of dams and rivers will also be provided, the power grid operator added.

NGCP, in turn, said Pagasa would provide back-up communication link with the Pagasa data center in tramontana real-time hydro-meteorological data from flood prone areas, particularly in the Magat River Basin and Bicol areas.

"The sharing of real-time information for disaster mitigation offers a high return on investment, and this is the direction this guns has committed," said Pagasa Administrator Prisco Nilo.

Gov't urged to develop currency bond market

RP said to account for a mere 0.1% of world total

By Bernie W. Dorotheo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank called on governments to "emerging East Asia"—including the Philippines—to step up efforts in building their respective bond markets as outstanding currency bonds in the region totaled an equivalent of $1.3 trillion as of end-September.

According to the ADB's Asian Bond Monitor (ABM) quarterly report, the amount is 14.6 percent higher than that in September 2005, and nearly eight times the level at end-1996, or just before the Asian financial crisis struck.

The report refers to China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Emerging East Asia accounts for some 6 percent of the global bond market, improving from only 2 percent in 1996.

"Our aim [is] to better balance financial investment in Asian assets—improving returns on domestic assets, rather than locking sizeable amounts of savings into low-yielding assets abroad," said Hinds Lubani, ADB vice president of finance and administration.

Also, there is a need to increase issuance of local currency bonds, while governments must take measures to encourage institutional and foreign investors to buy Asian bonds, said Lubani, as he addressed the fourth yearly Asian Bond Markets Summit that opened yesterday in Singapore.

He added that governments would need to improve regulatory and policy frameworks so investors would be comfortable investing on the region's markets.

"Robust local capital markets are essential to diversify the sources of funding necessary to support long-term investments and sustain high growth levels," Lubani said.

Data from the November issue of the ABM show that while outstanding peso bond issues doubled to Philippine peso 4.58 billion since 1996, the country still accounts for just 0.1 percent of the world total.

In April, the ADB announced that its $1.8 billion Asian Development Bank Program (ADBP) now includes the Philippine peso and the New Taiwan dollar in addition to the Singapore dollar, Hong Kong dollar and Malaysian ringgit.

The ADBP serves as the first platform in Asia dedicated to the issuance of bonds in local currencies.

Under the scheme launched in 2006, Asian currency denominated bonds may be issued in respective domestic markets under a unified legal and documentation framework, which is expected to promote the integration of the Asian bond market and attract wider investor bases.

Yesterday, Lubani said ADB was on talks with a number of Asian countries to include more currencies in the ADBP.

PEARL BUILDINGS
PEARL COMPANIA DE SEGUROS, INC
2/F Perla Compañia de Seguros Mansion
117 Carlos Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
SYNOPSIS OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2005

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	[illegible]
Treasury Bills	[illegible]
Stocks	[illegible]
Real Estate	[illegible]
Cash in Banks	[illegible]
Premiums Due from Ceding Companies	[illegible]
Reinsurance Recoverable on Paid Losses	[illegible]
Accrued Investment Income	[illegible]
Total Admitted Assets	[illegible]

LIABILITIES

Losses and Claims Payable	[illegible]
Loss Adjustment Expense Payable	[illegible]
Net Due to Reinsurance Companies	[illegible]
Unearned Premium Reserve	[illegible]
Premiums Due to Reinsurers	[illegible]
Commissions Payable and Accrued	[illegible]
Taxes Payable	[illegible]
Dividends Payable	[illegible]
Other Liabilities	[illegible]
Total Liabilities	[illegible]

RECONCILIATION EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid	[illegible]
Contributed Surplus	[illegible]
Unassigned Surplus	[illegible]
Surplus as Regards Policyholders	[illegible]
Total Liabilities and Surplus as Regards Policyholders	[illegible]

(This synopsis extracted from the 2005 Annual Statement submitted by the Insurance Commission is published pursuant to Section 205 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended)

NOTICE OF TENDER OFFER TO SHAREHOLDERS OF MABUHAY VINYL CORPORATION

Please be informed that on November 20, 2006, Taiwan Composition (the "Bidder") filed a Tender Offer Statement (SEC Form 19-1) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) pursuant to Section 19 of the Securities Regulation Code. The Bidder, which is a chemical company incorporated and established under Japanese laws, offers to acquire 321,276,727 common shares or 32.15% of the total outstanding shares of Mabuhay Vinyl Corporation ("MVC") owned by stockholders (the "Shareholders") other than Toyo Corporation and Banco de Oro Unibank, Inc., all at price of [illegible] per share.

Shareholders may tender all or a portion of their MVC common shares ("MVC Shares") for acceptance and purchase by the Bidder, subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, beginning at 9:00 a.m. of November 24, 2006 until 12:00 noon of December 23, 2006 (the "Tender Offer Period"). The Tender Offer Period can not be extended.

The Tender Offer shall proceed whether or not the transaction described in the said SEC Form 19-1 on which basis the Tender Offer is made, proceeds.

Only MVC Shares validly tendered by shareholders of record of MVC shall be accepted for payment by the Bidder. Only MVC shares tendered in scripless form shall be accepted. Only shareholders who wish to tender their MVC Shares should go to their brokers (the "Participating Brokers") no later than MVC Shares lodged with the Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation and be tendered by their Participating Brokers. Please note that lodgment before at least five (5) trading days. The applicable lodgement fees shall be for the account of tendering stockholders.

All tendered MVC Shares must be free from any claims, liens, encumbrances or restrictions, whether or not valid. The consideration for tendered shares shall be paid to the tendering shareholders Participating Broker, within ten (10) business days after the termination of the Tender Offer Period. Within the same ten-day period, Participating Brokers will be informed of the acceptance or rejection of tenders made by said Participating Brokers. Tendering shareholders with accepted tenders must make arrangements with their Participating Brokers regarding the payment for their MVC Shares.

Tendering shareholders shall have the right to withdraw during the Tender Offer Period any MVC Shares tendered. Unless such MVC shares have been previously accepted for payment by the Bidder. For a withdrawal to be effective, a written notice of withdrawal must be timely received by the Participating Brokers who tendered instructions from tendering shareholders to tender their MVC Shares. The Participating Brokers who receive such notice of withdrawal must notify the Bidder through the Depository (BPI Securities Corporation) of such withdrawal in writing, indicating the number shares subject of the withdrawal, prior to the end of the Tender Offer Period. All expenses incurred by the Depository and/or the Participating Brokers in respect of the withdrawal of any MVC Shares shall be for the account of the shareholder making the withdrawal.

Tendering shareholders whose tenders were rejected, or who withdrew their tenders in accordance with the Terms of the Tender Offer, must make arrangements with their Participating Brokers regarding the withdrawal of their securities. The Depository will return all securities covered by rejected and/or withdrawn tenders within ten (10) business days from the end of the Tender Offer Period.

FOR: the SCCP fee, PSE fees, selling brokers' commission with value added taxes, stock transaction tax, lodgment fees, cost of issuance of new stock certificates and/or upliftment fees (if any), on the sell side of the transaction, shall be for the account of the tendering shareholders.

The Bidder's bank in the Philippines has confirmed receipt and deposit from the Bidder of funds intended for the Tender Offer. These funds are sufficient to satisfy full acceptance of all tenders under the Tender Offer.

Copies of the Terms of the Tender Offer as well as SEC Form 19-1 may be obtained by MVC shareholders from the offices of any of the following: (i) Participating Brokers, (ii) the Depository (BPI Securities Corporation), (iii) MVC. The Bidder has also requested the Philippine Stock Exchange to post the applicable forms on its website at http://www.pse.com.ph. You may contact your broker/legal and/or financial advisor or direct inquiries or requests for distribution on the Tender Offer process to:

The Depository
BPI Securities Corporation
Attention: Ms. Amparina S. Garcia at (632) 845-5705 ext / or
Mr. Lester Ong at (632) 845-5941 and Ms. Leeron Seva at (632) 845-5999

Prices of building materials stable

NO SPIKES WERE observed in the prices of construction supplies in metro Manila in October, despite the onslaught of storms.

According to the National Statistics Office, the increase in the retail price index of selected building materials in the National Capital Region actually slowed down to 0.1 percent month-on-month from 0.5 percent in September.

The basket of goods considered in the NPI for construction products includes materials for carpentry, electrical installations, masonry, painting materials and related compounds, plumbing materials and miscellaneous use.

The slower overall increase was attributed to the decrease in the subgroups of masonry materials (0.1 percent in September) and miscellaneous construction materials (0.3 percent from 1.0 percent).

However, higher monthly growth rates were seen in the subgroups of carpentry materials (0.4 percent from 0.3 percent) and electrical materials (1.1 percent from 0.9 percent).

Four subgroups were also seen with painting materials and related compounds and plumbing materials—0.1 percent from nil and 0.2 percent, respectively.

There was also an increase in the prices of lumber (unpolish), selected electrical wires, wiring devices and paints.

On the other hand, price reductions were observed in cement, corrugated sheets and galvanized steel bars.

On a yearly basis, prices continued to drop at a rate of 2.8 percent, although at a slower pace than the 7.5 per cent recorded in September.

NSO data show that prices of basic materials such as lumber, cement and steel bars declined by double digits.

Meanwhile

Crowded plate? No problem

SOMEWHERE THERE BUSINESSMAN MANNY Pangilinan recently said that he already has too much on his plate.

One more deal might not bust, as it looks like First Pacific Co. Ltd. may gain majority control of the country's biggest and only profitable listed mining firm Philex Mining Corp. sooner rather than later.

There may not be a protracted battle after all, but only a handsome buyout deal that will consolidate the mining firm's diversified shareholder base.

We gathered that the MVP-led First Pacific and Roberto V. Ongpin are in talks for the former's possible purchase of the latter's stake. RVO, who recently has been accumulating shares in Philex, along with the recent moves of the GSIS, had long been rumored to be keen on making any of Philex in house on other high-margin ventures.

But RVO buying MVP's 30% stake in Philex is quite premium, and cost watchers say it is a price that MVP may consider to offer to fully gain decisive control of Philex. It is also a price that will entice other government financial institutions—Social Security System (which has interest in large stake in First Pacific) as well as the GSIS and Development Bank of the Philippines to sell in a block with RVO.

With a market capitalization of P85 billion (just a third of Meralco's), Philex is soon an ideal target for First Pacific's digest. Because a large chunk of its shareholders are unaccounted for—either dead, missing or indifferent—the only way to consolidate control is to tap on other blocks.

With the market's recent obsession with Philex, it looks like a seller's market out there. And there's always some room room for bad, even on a crowded plate. Doris C. Dumlao

Arrested development

THE DEVELOPMENT of a relatively small but important section of Bonifacio Global City is being hindered by the apparent refusal of a unit of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to vacate its underlying patrimony despite its network with another government agencies and private developer Megaworld Corp.

In fact, the recalcitrant tenant of the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) has become such an embarrassment for the DILG—its parent department—that Local Government Undersecretary Marlon Cepeda recently wrote the PPSC chief a letter that reminded like a half plea and half sarcastic reminder.

According to our source, PPSC was originally scheduled to relocate to a building owned by PET Plaza, but later wanted to move to another building along Bonifacio Avenue to exchange for existing Ayala land etc. When it was learned that this building was unavailable, it proposed another Bonifacio location which would cost double its first option (a mix DILG was unwilling to pay).

Corpus is now urging (with a lot of compassion), one could sense from his letter) that the PPSC leadership be reminded to the PET Plaza building purchase, lest DILG faces legal action for breach of contract from Megaworld, which will develop the 7.1-hectare property.

PPSC, by the way, is headed by Margarita "Ongking" Cajucgan as president. Te DILG staff? Cajucs... good luck, guys. Jayson L. Lanzo

Democratizing the awards

IN THE PAST few years of its existence, both winners of the BSE Finest Chief Financial Officer of the Year award have come from the Ayala group (leaving out a few CFOs wondering if 'on' one should flood from the same group will bag it this year).

But lo and behold, this year's member (and Ayala monopoly breaker) is SM Investments Corp.'s Jose Sio—a man who helped guide (over) Henry Sy's empire into one of the biggest conglomerates in the country today.

Sio, who joined the SM group after retiring as a partner at leading accounting firm SGV, shares the honor with ISELC, which recently tapped the overseas bond market to rake in $300 million in a reversal, but not for any Philippine corporate bond issue.

"The role of the CFO is changing because the mood of the international market is subdued," he said.

"Only the company which has strong cash flows, balance sheet and potential for growth will be attractive to overseas investors. And we've got it all," he said, using the SM group's longtime marketing slogan.

As Sone does this year's CFO awardee manage his personal portfolio? He says he keeps enough cash for daily needs and invests the rest of his money in long-term in-

Lopez energy unit raises P12B from retail bond sale

By Ailyn R. Barlas

THE LOPEZ LED ENERGY DEVELopment Corp. has raised P12 billion from its maiden retail bond offering, or P2 billion more than originally planned, due to a strong demand from both retail and institutional investors.

Due to the favorable market response to EDC's first retail issuance, the bonds have already been fully taken up ahead of the original closing date of Nov. 26, the company said.

EDC, the Philippines' biggest producer of geothermal energy, will issue the bonds on Dec. 4. The retail bonds carried a yield of 6.6438 percent a year for a tenor of five and a half years and 9.3327 percent for the seven-year maturity. EDC said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. acted as the lone manager and sole bookrunner for the bond issue, while the joint lead underwriters were BDO Capital, SCDC Capital Corp., BPI Capital Corp. and SB Capital Investment Corp.

The Securities and Exchange Commission earlier approved EDC's application to supplement its existing P5.8 billion in retail bonds, with an oversubscription option of up to P3 billion in case of strong investor demand.

EDC earlier said it was confident that investors would respond favorably to its issuance after securing a Triple-A rating from Philippine Rating Services Corp. This rating reflected the company's strong capacity to meet its financial commitments.

Proceeds from the issuance will be used to partially refinance or redenominate the company's outstanding foreign currency loans as well as for general corporate purposes.

Under its multi-term refinancing plan, EDC targets to raise P30 billion. It earlier raised P9 billion from a peso-denominated private placement, while another P9 billion will come in the form of internally generated cash.

Apart from refinancing debts, EDC has been building up its funds to finance a number of new and expansion projects as well as acquisitions that would help it become the world's biggest geothermal producer. These projects included building several greenfield power plants and/or brownfield expansions, maintaining capacities of geothermal power plants, and bidding for government-owned power facilities.

EDC exercises oversubscription option

SMDC to offer new shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

SM DEVELOPMENT CORP., THE residential property unit of tycoon Henry Sy, is offering new shares to existing stockholders at P5.50 each to raise about P4.4 billion in fresh funds for its expansion.

The Philippine Stock Exchange recently approved SMDC's application to list 1.27 billion new common shares that are being offered. Existing shareholders are entitled to subscribe to one new SMDC share for every three existing shares held as of Dec. 7, 2009.

The offer price of P5.50 represents a discount of 13.25 percent to the 75-day volume-weighted average price of SMDC shares for the trading days covering Dec. 10 to Nov. 20 this year, the company disclosed to the local bourse yesterday.

Proceeds from the offering will be used to roll out SMDC's property launches and augment working capital.

For the first nine months, SMDC posted a consolidated net income of P1.6 billion, 3,900 percent higher than a year ago as the company benefited from the strong sales of residential units and higher completion rates of various projects.

SMDC's consolidated revenues amounted to P4.1 billion during the period, up 78 percent from a year ago. Cash flow as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (Ebitda) topped P1.6 billion for an Ebitda margin of 41 percent.

The company has several ongoing projects, among them the Chateau Royale, a six-cluster mid-rise condominium project in Panduqan City (which is now in its 58th cluster and 46 percent complete); Berkeley Residences on Katipunan Avenue across from Miriam College, which is 50-percent complete; and Green Residences (Condo Hi Day Hotel Edsa which is 47 percent complete with its Tower 1.

Projects scheduled for launching this year are Primeton Residences, Isaac Gilmore and J.P. Rizal along Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City; Sun Residences, beside Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City; Jazz Residences along Jupiter Street in Makati City; Light Residences in Mandaluyong City, and Wind Residences in Tagaytay City.

Philweb puts up unit for overseas expansion

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST ONline technology firm Philweb Corp. yesterday unveiled plans to operate foreign government-franchised gaming businesses outside the Philippines beginning next year.

Philweb has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary, Philweb International Gaming Corp., capitalized at P1 billion, to handle the overseas expansion program.

"We will demonstrate that our very successful business model of partnering with government, in this case, Pagcor [Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.], to develop and operate technology-based gaming can be transplanted to other countries throughout the region and other parts of the world," Philweb president Ireneo Wales said in a statement.

"The economic events that we have created in the Philippines have contributed significantly to national development, and this is something that other governments are beginning to notice. In particular, the model is attractive because Philweb takes care of the development, rollout and operational costs. Thus, the government does not need to contribute capital to create the business, and thus has no cost of money or financial risk," he explained.

Valdez also noted that the success of Philweb's technology-based business made it an ideal competitor to illegal gambling. During its May stockholders' meeting, Philweb announced that the company would expand into new lines of business, having achieved positive national earnings since it was founded by former trade minister Roberto S. Ongpin in 2000.

The country's first online technology firm posted a 121-percent jump in third-quarter net profit to P144.8 million on the back of strong sales from its gaming businesses. Total net income for the first three quarters of the year totaled P372.4 million, 70 percent more than the level in 2008. It aims to post a net income of around P520 million for the whole of this year.

Doris C. Dumlao

Peso seen rallying . . .

From page B1

ment's domestic pump-priming. He noted that easing remittances from overseas Filipinos as well as election spending would help support growth next year.

SGBC sees Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowing from 3.8 percent in 2008 to 1.8 percent this year, but Velasco said annual growth has been cooled-out up higher than this forecast. By 2010, the economy's GDP growth is seen to accelerate to 4.2 percent and to 4.7 percent by 2011.

Velasco said the central bank would likely remain itself from raising interest rates too soon next year given the early stages of economic recovery and also a new administration would have been in place after the 2010 elections, he said such caution would prevail.

"There's a strong chance that interest rates will be flat next year unless the central bank sees a compelling reason [to raise rates] by November or December," he said.

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Philippine Stock Exchange

As of November 23, 2009

Issue	Last	Net	Volume	Value
ABS-CBN	6.00	0.00	1,000	6,000.00
ABSP	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
ACR	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
ACRX	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
ACRXP1	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
ACRXP2	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
ADVANC	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AEV	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGI	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGP	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPA	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPB	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPC	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPD	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPE	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPF	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPG	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPH	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPI	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPJ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPK	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPL	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPM	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPN	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPO	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPP	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPQ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPR	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPS	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPT	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPU	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPV	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPW	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPX	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPY	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AGPZ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHC	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCA	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCB	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCC	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCD	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCE	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCF	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCG	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCH	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCI	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCJ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCK	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCL	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCM	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCN	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCO	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCP	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCQ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCR	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCS	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCT	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCU	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCV	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCW	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCX	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCY	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
AHCZ	0.00	0.00	0	0.00

Currencies

November 23, 2009 Country	Unit	Cash Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	dollar	1.00	1.00	46.90
Japan	yen	100.00	1.12	52.50
United Kingdom	pound	1.00	1.60	75.00
Hong Kong	dollar	7.75	7.75	363.50
Australia	dollar	1.09	1.09	51.00
Canada	dollar	1.06	1.06	49.80
Singapore	dollar	1.41	1.41	66.00
Switzerland	franc	1.04	1.04	48.80
Sweden	krona	7.50	7.50	352.00
Denmark	krone	5.60	5.60	262.50
Norway	krone	6.00	6.00	281.50
South Korea	won	1,170.00	1.00	54.90
Taiwan	dollar	32.50	32.50	1,525.00
Thailand	baht	33.50	33.50	1,572.00
Euro	euro	1.50	2.25	105.50
Saudi Arabia	riyal	3.75	3.75	175.90
UAE	dirham	3.67	3.67	172.00
Kuwait	dinar	0.29	0.96	45.00
Qatar	riyal	3.64	3.64	170.80
Bahrain	dinar	0.38	1.01	47.50
China	yuan	6.83	6.83	320.50
India	rupee	46.50	0.99	46.50
Indonesia	rupiah	9,400.00	1.00	44.10
Malaysia	ringgit	3.42	1.03	48.00
Vietnam	dong	16,800.00	0.89	41.80
Mexico	peso	13.00	1.00	46.90
Brazil	real	1.75	1.00	46.90
Russia	ruble	29.50	1.00	46.90

P12.7B in assets to be infused into MPI

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP LED BY FORMER TRADE MINISter Roberto V. Ongpin is set to infuse P12.7 billion worth of prime property into newly acquired Macroasian Prudent Inc. in line with the backdoor listing of property unit Alphaland Development Inc.

The trading suspension on Macroasian is expected to be lifted today by the Philippine Stock Exchange today following the submission by the company yesterday of a comprehensive disclosure on the proposed backdoor listing of Alphaland.

The new board of Macroasian led by Ongpin, passed a resolution to change the corporate name of the company to Alphaland Corp. to reflect the new diversified thrust of the company and in accordance with the core business of Alphaland.

Effectively, Alphaland is 69-percent owned by Ongpin and Eric Recto through Macroasian Corp., Stonehill Corp. and Investcor Corp., while the remaining 40 percent is owned by Alphaland Holdings (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. of the indonesian Tycoon.

Macroasian is soon benefiting from Alphaland's existing projects, namely Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall, The Alphaland Tower, Alphaland Bay City, Alphaland Makati Place and Shangri-La at the Fort. The P12.7 billion estimated value of the assets, as reflected in the appraisal report was based, represented Alphaland's total assets as of end-September, based on the disclosure.

Alphaland Southgate Tower and Mall, located at the corner of Edsa and Buendia in Makati City, consists of the Southgate Tower, a 30-storey modern structure clad in a glass curtain wall and the Southgate Mall, a six storey podium that will house retail and retail dining establishments. The Southgate Tower will have a total of office space of 40,000 square meters and 18,000 square meters of commercial space. This project was launched in August.

Alphaland Makati Place occupies a metropolitan property at the end of Ayala Avenue, the main thoroughfare of the Makati central business district. It is a four-storey podium mall interspersed with park areas and several high-end residential and office towers.

In the meantime, Alphaland Bay City is located at the Aurora Business Park in Paranaque City. With more than 32 hectares along Manila Bay, Alphaland Bay City is envisioned to have a world class marina and yacht club as its centerpiece, surrounded by prestigious beachside lined by exclusive malls and boutiques, overlooked by five-star hotels. Low-rise commercial buildings will be backed by medium-rise residential buildings then by high-rise skyscrapers.

Alphaland also has a 25-percent in Shangri-La at the Fort. Philippines Resorts, the building is destined to become a Manila landmark. The mixed use business, residential and retail tower will be located within the fast developing Taguig business district.

Aboitiz firms seeking ERC approval for power supply deal

By Amy R. Borres

ABOITIZ GROUP SUBSIDIARIES AP Renewables Inc. and San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. are seeking the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval for the two companies' power supply agreement.

Under the agreement, AP Renewables will supply renewable energy for three years starting Dec. 26, 2000 to Mindpro, which provides electricity to San Fernando City and the municipality of Santa Monica.

For the first nine months that will end on Sept. 25, 2018, the distribution company's power demand will be about 70 megawatts (MW), of which 25 MW are expected to be supplied by AP Renewables. By then, Mindpro's power supply contract with state-run National Power Corp. would have expired.

In the succeeding 27 months until Sept. 25, 2021, AP Renewables will become Mindpro's sole supplier. During the period, the maximum contract demand is most reaching reach 90 MW.

"Napocor does not appear to have the capacity to supply the same after the [transition supply contract] expires on Sept. 25, 2018, considering the continuing privatization of its assets," according to the Aboitiz firms.

"To enable itself to address the power requirements of its customers and ensure the affordability of the supply, Mindpro sought an alternative supplier to fill in the gap that Napocor has been unable to handle," the joint application filed by the two firms stated.

Mindpro initiated negotiations with AP Renewables largely because it found no urgent need to find another supplier for its additional energy requirements. Napocor, they said, did not respond to Mindpro's request for an increase in energy supply.

Napocor supplies an average of 11.5 million kilowatt hours of energy per month at rates based on the time of use scheme, as opposed by the SDC.

"Financing, with an energy requirement of about 23 million kWh per month, the volume of energy supplied by Napocor has proven to be insufficient to allow Mindpro to fully meet the demands of its customers," the companies said in their application.

They added that electricity rates under the power supply agreement will be computed on a per-kWh value added tax due to the renewable nature of the source of energy.

Biz Buzz

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investments. He is a believer in property as an asset class, with half of his wealth invested in real estate. The other half is in liquid assets, 60 percent of which are in bonds and 40 percent in equities.

The awarding ceremony will be held today. Previous CEO of the Year honorees were Delfin Gonzalez of Globe Telecom in 2007 and Sherisa Nuesa of Manila Water Co. in 2008. Doris C. Dumlao

Odds stacked... against him

FINANCE Secretary Margarito B. Teves said he will not resign like his former undersecretary, Isidro S. Ingcoran IV, despite his father saying the finance chief should have been the one who resigned due to the shortfall in government collections.

Herminio E. Teves, who, like his son, is a lawyer, lamented representing Negros Occidental — said so during a forum held in Quezon City last week.

Ingcoran quit as commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue because he was ordered to take responsibility for the agency's failure to meet targets.

"My father and I, we have similarities, we are both Teves's," reporters quoted the government's finance chief.

"But his hair is darker than mine," added the more seasoned official. "He also have different hairstyle in number [one] as regarding whether I should have resigned [...]"

The younger Teves said he was staying put despite the fiscal situation getting "extremely unsettled." As of mid-October, the budget deficit has reached P106.1 billion, remarking the full year target gap of P203 billion—and threatening to hit a historic high of P308 billion by year-end (see something one would like to have an encore!).

The finance chief kept mum about his plans about a possible run for office in the May 2010 elections, saying this will be known before the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy on Dec. 1.

Even then, Teves said there were indications as to what his decision would be: the deficit is bad, the reconstruction effort on the choice the Special/National Public Revenue Commission) is still in its infancy, and... perhaps most importantly... his popularity rating remains low. Rainier Rontoyo

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Declare Meralco-Napocor deal valid, court asked

LBP offers dollar NCTDs

LAND BANK IS OFFERING DOLlar-denominated negotiable certificates of time deposit (NCTDs) to expand its banking operations and to provide an alternative investment instrument to depositors.

The offer period started on Nov. 21 and will end on Dec. 6, during which the final terms of the issue will be announced.

The NCTDs are senior deposit obligations of the Bank which will have a maturity of five years. It is ideal for individuals and corporations that seek medium-term investments offering wide higher returns than regular dollar time deposits. The NCTDs will be offered in minimum denominations of $5,000 and in increments of $1,000 thereafter, interest will be paid quarterly until they mature in 2005. The NCTDs are negotiable and transferable in the secondary market via a market maker. As a deposit product, the NCTDs will be covered by Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. up to the specified limits.

For the first nine months of 2000, Landbank posted a net income of P5.4 billion, a 41-percent increase from the P3.8 billion in the same period last year.

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC CO., THE COUNTRY'S biggest power distributor, yesterday asked a regional trial court to declare as "valid and binding" its P3.4-billion settlement agreement with state-run National Power Corp.

In its petition for declaratory relief, Meralco said that contrary to claims made by the Office of the Solicitor General, the terms of the settlement agreement were not grossly disadvantageous to the government.

Meralco also said the agreement—which was entered into by the president and CEO of Napocor rather than duly authorized by its board—would have been implemented if not for the intervention of the OSG.

"No law requires (Napocor to obtain OSG) approval for its compromise or settlement agreement with (Meralco)," the utility stressed.

The OSG is contesting the settlement agreement that Napocor and Meralco signed in 2003, in connection with the electricity that the utility contracted to buy from the state firm, but did not.

The settlement was initially set at P12.68 billion, but this was eventually reduced to P10 billion.

As of 2006, the compensation of the amount involved in the settlement was reduced further to P74.3 billion.

In May 2000, however, the OSG, acting as the People's Tribune, filed with the Energy Regulatory Commission a motion for intervention and an file-in opposition to the settlement deed between Napocor and Meralco.

2003 settlement agreement opposed by OSG

In its opposition, the OSG prayed that the joint application and settlement agreement be disapproved and declared null and void.

The OSG said it found the deal "contrary to law, morals, and public policy" specifically because its provisions that would put an additional burden of 71 centavos per kilowatt hour to consumers.

The OSG also argued in its opposition that since the settlement agreement never reached the ERC for review, which was a violation of the Revised Administrative Code of 1987, E.O. 215 and the Charter of Napocor under Republic Act 6395, it was "inherently defective and therefore, invalid."

In September 2000, the ERC suspended the proceedings on the settlement agreement case.

ERC executive director Francis Saturnino Juan earlier explained that the decision to suspend the case proceedings was an offshoot of the interventions made by the OSG.

Juan said the issue "should more appropriately be threshed out before the regular courts."

APEC Plans rolls out today

Abrahamson Promoters & Entrepreneurs Corporation — better known as APEC Plans — has secured the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to sell new pre-need plans.

Manuel Isaacson, Chairman, Head Officer, President and CEO of APEC Plans, welcomes this positive development less than a year after he took over the company's helm, and considers it a renewal of confidence in his latest business venture's competence to move and lead the industry.

"In spite of the current market climate and the state of the pre-need industry, APEC remains bullish about the prospects of selling memorial pre-need plans because we believe in the potential of this industry," said Chairman.

He added that "the approval by the SEC of our dealer's license is evidence of positive development and shows the SEC's faith in the viability and competence of APEC to jump start the industry anew."

Since APEC Plans started operations in March this year, Chairman has since undertaken a 10-point action plan to turn the company around, which includes the implementation by a credible and competent corporate team of an effective business plan and a conservative approach in the management of fund build-ups.

Hailed as the white knight of the pre-need industry, Chairman revealed that fresh capital has been infused into APEC to ensure its continued sustainability.

"We were able to turn the company around in only 10 months. This shows our commitment as a serious player in the pre-need industry," Chairman pointed out.

Known for his risk-taking and effective investment prowess, his tenacious commitment to manage whatever is left of the conference and integrity of the pre-need industry, and said it is crucial for pre-need companies to be transparent and accountable to its plan-holders' beneficiaries.

APEC Plans abounds with new possibilities

Abundant leadership

This commitment stems from the vision of APEC Plans President & CEO Noel Chan, the maverick businessman known for his risk-taking and effective management prowess. Taking over the

Teaming Up for a Stronger, Brighter Future

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Our Allied Products
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Motor (Vehicle Insurance Protection-Basic, Vehicle Insurance Protection-Comprehensive, AutoProtect) Home (Dwelling Insurance Protection-Basic,

New crisis looms with prolonged use of low interest rates

US, developed countries urged to start 'exit strategies'

By Dario L. Lucas

SHANGHAI, CHINA – CENTRAL banks around the Asia-Pacific region – taking their cue from the US Federal Reserve – must be laying the groundwork for the next financial crisis by relying too much and too long on low interest rates to help their economies recover from the global financial crisis.

To head off this possibility, monetary authorities in developed countries should start implementing so-called "exit strategies" that would prevent the creation of asset price bubbles due to excessively cheap funds, according to participants in the two-day Commerce Agenda Round Table (CART) Shanghai.

The forum brought together senior journalists and academics from the Asia-Pacific and the United States to tackle political, economic and social issues affecting the Asian region, along with economic powerhouses China and Japan.

It was jointly sponsored by the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership and the Shanghai Daily and operated under Chatham House rules—which means that nothing discussed could be reported on without attributing the statements to any specific participant, to encourage the free exchange of ideas.

Joining core discussions on the global crisis and its implications for Asia, forum participants pointed out that lower monetary policies around the world, but especially in the US, were encouraging investors to borrow funds at low interest rates. These investors then invest the funds into higher yielding investments in emerging markets like the Philippines, fueling sharp increases in asset prices, including those of shares listed on stock markets.

Transactions like these – known as "carry trades" – bring with them the risk of rapid price declines once inflation created by low interest rates in the funds' home countries) from their repatriation.

"The longer the Federal Reserve Board maintains low interest rates, the greater the risk of creating asset bubbles," stressed one participant.

"There is no point of risking another crisis," as he urged governments in developed economies to begin the process of rolling back monetary rate that had successfully prevented the world from sliding into a depression. "The US should raise interest rates at its next policy."

In this regard, however, participants noted that Asia-Pacific nations – especially China and Japan – must play a key role in helping the US prevent another crisis.

This could be done mainly by preventing the rate of price increases and economic recovery (if) in short-term investments by preventing the easy and consumption of foreign goods.

At the same time, some forum participants raised the need for the region to prepare for the eventual decline of the US dollar as a reserve currency for international transactions.

Citing the weakness of the Japanese economy, the only other currency that could replace the dollar at this point is the Chinese Renminbi or yuan, if exchanges allow its value to float freely according to market forces.

At present, however, authorities are unlikely to allow the yuan to appreciate to its true value, in line with the strength of the Chinese economy, the forum concluded.

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...holder of APEC, he has dedicated his efforts to turn red and the company has the whole industry around.

"The pre-need industry as a whole has a noble mission – which is to help people anticipate their future needs with confidence," he said. "APEC Plans will lead the way in rebuilding the hope and trust. We believe in the potential of this company."

Since his acquisition of the company in March of this year, he has undertaken a 10-point action plan to turn APEC around, which includes the implementation by a credible and competent corporate team of an effective business plan and a conservative approach in the management of trust fund assets.

Under Baker from a sterling record as an investment banker and director to both large local and multinational firms, ranging in diverse industries such as banking and finance, real estate, telecommunications, food and beverages, energy, and other sectors. He is also a pioneer in low cost airline services, making Asian Spirit Airlines the most profitable domestic carrier and one of the best managed under his charge.

Abundant Possibilities

APEC Plans has a customer base numbering more than 300,000 plans of fixed value pension, education and memorial plans. Customers of memorial plans account for more than 80% of the customer base.

Today, APEC has paid total claims and benefits amounting to more than P8.16 billion to its more than 120,000 planholders. It's Trust Fund, as of June 30, 2009, stands at P11.5 billion to cover the servicing of the future claims of its fixed value plans.

APEC has a huge marketing organization with more than 10,000 sales associates operating through its network of 6 regions and 15 branches nationwide. Its sales forces have been trained as financial advisors that are capable of selling diversified financial products to its customers. The company aims to double its sales force and its nationwide presence in the next two years.

Meanwhile, an affiliate company – APEC Financials – sells non-pension products and has forged partnerships with the country's leading financial institutions and non-bank insurance providers which includes: Manila Bankers Standard Chartered Insurance, Manufacturers Life, Holy Cross Memorial Park, Himlayang Pilipino, La Funeraria Paz, Heritage Park, Ayalaland Columbary, Flower Gardens, St. Peregrine Columbarium, and The Garden of the Divine Word. APEC Financials has more than 20 product lines for cross selling of its agents and continues to strengthen its partnership with all these product partners.

True to its name, APEC Plans boasts an abundance of faith given by its business partners, an abundance of loyalty from its customers who believe in its products and services, and an abundance of involvement manifested by its corporate officers and employees dedicated to serve its clients nationwide.

Guardians at the Gates

The Bureau of Immigration and its technology-enabled mission

L-R (1-27) Product Manager Gary Ignacio, PLDT Relationship Manager Lara Ey, Bi-General Services Service Acting Chief Grace Castañeda, DOST Communications Manager Odette Lang, PLDT SVP & Government Relationship Business Head Anthony Lim, PLDT VP & Corporate Relationship Management Head Wendy Cromwell, PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group Manuel Pamaran, BI Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, BI Deputy Commissioner Atty. Ma. Antonia Bocobo, BI Executive Director Fredelin Olivas, BI Asst. Head Division Chief Simeon Valeros and BI Legal Immigration Officer Theodore Pascual.

When the PLDT team met with the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to seal an agreement for new PLDT Wellnet laptops and SMART Bluebberry units, it was just the latest development in the continuing technological inroads the agency has been making under its visionary leader, Commissioner Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan.

Early on, Commissioner Libanan had seen the potential benefits a fully tech-enabled bureau would bring both for national security and the national economy. For the anti-terrorism and criminality front, he explains that the bureau's obligations are more sensitive than ever. "We have to stay ahead of terrorists and criminal elements and arrest them as soon as we detect them because their proliferation will have undue effects on the national economy," he said.

He points to his need for vigilance as a global reality, and that he and his people recognized the new entrances and exposes the bureau would have. Through many technological and administrative reforms, Commissioner Libanan steered the bureau towards being awarded as the

Immigration officials closely monitored by the fresh-scrubbed Bureau

RP eyes agribusiness investments from ME

By Rita T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT and Commercial Corp. is set to meet with several groups from the Middle East that are exploring investment opportunities in the Philippines, particularly in the food sector.

These groups want to ensure steady supply of certain types of food, it said.

PADCC president Alanis Aglaua said a delegation from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce would be in Manila on Friday and Saturday for a briefing on potential investment area in the Philippines.

The group from Bahrain, composed of representatives from six private companies, are interested in horticulture (cultivation/farming of aquatic plants and animals).

"We'll show them the list of locations for coastal areas for the country," Aglaua said.

He said there was no indication yet on how much these companies were intending to invest in the Philippines.

It is Bahrain's second investment mission to the Philippines after the Nader Al-Ebrahim's Al-Hassan INGO forged a P300-million agribusiness project with the AMA Group Holdings Corp. The Bahrain group plans to produce crops to be sold both locally and to Bahrain and other markets.

After Bahrain, PADCC is also working on having similar meetings with business leaders from Qatar and Kuwait.

Qatar is reportedly interested in growing basmati rice while Kuwait wants to go into banana production.

Aglaua said the investors would be linked with local companies who can help in their investments.

Also in May, Bahrain expressed interest to invest in shrimp production at the Cotabato Integrated Aquaculture Park.

The park currently grows tilapia but it can very well accommodate hamanos (white shrimp) production.

PADCC also linked early this year a Bahraini company with Filipino firm AgriInvestors Inc. (AWI), Aglaua said.

AWI, the first agribusiness company to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), has entered into a memorandum of understanding with Saudi-based Far East Agricultural Holding Corp.

Far East, an umbrella group of 10 Saudi Arabian companies engaged in the production of poultry, livestock, fruits, grains and cereals, will venture into sales and cavendish banana production.

Local supplier loses deal with adidas Group

THE ADIDAS GROUP YESTERDAY CONfirmed its decision to end its business relationship with JB Sneakers Inc., which manufactures rubberized footwear products for brand adidas.

The factory is located in the Blantyreton Economic zone in Muntinlupa, Rizal. It employs roughly 4947 permanent employees and 240 short-term contract workers.

"It was agreed with the factory owners in early June 2009 that the termination would take place on Dec. 31, 2009," the adidas Group said in a statement.

The decision to terminate the manufacturing agreement, it said, stemmed from the prevailing adverse conditions in the global export market.

"Despite these conditions, the adidas Group continued to place orders with the supplier, to enable a proper phase-out period and to support the workers' ongoing employment," it said.

"However, it now appears that the factory owner is unable to secure financing to continue the factory operation beyond the current order," the adidas Group said.

"We regret that we have had to take this action, which has its roots in the current economic crisis," said Hemchhagat, head of footwear sourcing for the adidas Group.

"At this point in time and with Christmas approaching and primary concern is for the wellbeing of the 10 factory workers and their families. We will continue to engage with the factory and help where ever we can" added Singh.

Jica, 2 state banks to sign P23-B ODA agreements

By Bastel W. Dumingo

THE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERAtion Agency is scheduled to sign today official development assistance agreements with Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines involving up to ¥3 billion yen or some P23 billion.

In a statement, Jica said the agreement with the Landbank involved up to ¥4.668 billion yen or some P1.75 billion for the agricultural credit support project (ACSP).

The ACSP is aimed at creating jobs and improving agricultural productivity in rural areas, considering that three-fourths of the Philippines' rural population are engaged in agriculture.

"The small farmers' and fisherfolk's limited access to financing and technology lead to the serious problem of low agricultural productivity," the agency said.

The ACSP will provide them with financing, including qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries, small and medium enterprises and large agribusiness enterprises.

The agreement with DBP involves up to ¥1.38 billion yen or some P16.1 billion in funds earmarked for the logistics infrastructure development project (LIDP).

The LIDP promotes the development of national distribution infrastructure in line with efforts to encourage economic growth.

Through this program, medium- and long-term financing will be provided to build distribution infrastructure for local communities and the private sector.

Eligible projects include facilities for rollon-roll off terminal system including vessels, toll roads, local government roads and maintenance equipment.

LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

MID-CENTURY CLASSIC—Kidz chair with paisley topped table, geometric tableware, as conceived by architect Gregg Calma

PHOTOS by Lou Gonzalez Jacinto

Timeless
Lor Calma

His house an architecture landmark, the architect-designer now applies his design philosophy to painting and sculpture

By Margo C. Enriquez
Correspondent

AT 82, ARCHITECT LORENZO "Lor" Calma no longer builds houses and offices—as he claims. He has moved on to pursue his passion for painting and sculpture.

It was Calma's home in Makati that put the Philippines on the map in 1973 when it was featured in Architectural Digest. This landmark residential project enabled him to explore his concepts that came to define his architecture and his art.

The architect says the house has been photographed to death, and it has recently been featured in "The Tropical House: Cutting Edge Design in the Philippines," even if his design is 40 years old. He says his house is being exhibited, and he hopes there would be takers.

Landmark design

Three stories, the 1,700-sq.m house stands on a 2,700-sq.m lot. The house is bare, except for essentials in the bedrooms, a corner sitting area furnished with mid-century chairs, and a renovated kitchen.

Nonetheless it is a classic example of minimalism. Stripped of major furniture and accessories, the house is striking because of the choice of materials and how they are used, the restrained color palette and the aesthetics of the architecture.

"I'm not a rich man," declares Calma. "When we built this in 1970, I chose three materials—Bataan marble, glass and steel. They will last forever. The walls are in concrete. Just whitewash them and they look like new."

One is impressed by the front door—a checkered pattern of fine black metal strips against a white shiny surface. The atrium is one of the voluminous three-story curve ceiling, elegant grids of long glass panels frame the garden view.

Calma gives a different twist to the copra

PLANE GEOMETRY. Calma with his Origami sculptures and metal chairs in primary colors

HIS ambiances frames the outdoors.

Timeless Lor Calma

From page C1

chandelier. He abstracted it into a giant orb hovering the space.

He puts about why the master's bedroom is on the ground floor. "When the kids were growing up, we wanted to know where they were going. They'd have to pass by us for security check."

In its balcony door, the artists-living room also overlooks a gallery for Calma's collection of artwork. A sculptured winding staircase with finely chiseled ridges is the focal point.

The minimalist aesthetics is also reflected in the other doors, made of lumaguing, adorned with cupis and punctuated by mirror by sun handles.

"That look Oriental," he said. "I combine modern and Filipino materials. I started the movement in introducing using local materials but not in the *bahay kubo* style. I make very chic details with metal. In design you must know how to dovetail two or three materials, but how to wear the native materials with stainless steel is hard."

The large dining room has only a sun-showered table and horizontal brass lighting fixture lined with mosaics of pearl shells—Calma's designs, naturally.

"The architecture is very simple but they don't do this anymore. Until now the design of modern homes are behind," he remarks.

DOOR MADE of lumaguing, cane, metal, mirror with the iron bars from burned dining rooms

Aesthetics

Aside from the aesthetics, the house is impressive because of its cross ventilation. While many modern homes tend to be too boxed that require lots of air-conditioning, Calma's home is cool even without fans.

Vertical slats of very openings are strategically located so that air flows in one-way over the divided spaces, and out the other.

The high ceiling in the atrium facilitates the natural transfer of heat energy by the air movement. The motion is an automatic convection due to the synchronized actions of gravity and changes in air density.

"The hot air goes up and the cool air is downstairs," he says. "You see that hot stuff is not absorbed to the ground. The wind goes through. There are also gaps on the floor; the stuff is not absorbed to the ground for a tunnel type of ventilation. It's open from under so that the wind comes from this gap and goes out."

Even his landscape was a work of art. It had seven types of mahogany, eucalyptus, and four rows and lots of Africana trees.

He says that 25 of those were killed by typhoons over the years. Still, the garden is still elegant with a row of rare palm trees bordered by huge slabs of *piedra china*.

Unknown to many, Calma collects beautiful objects, whether it's iconic furniture, artworks or kitchen accessories.

He admires the architectural features of the Wassily Chair; the first tubular steel chair by Marcel Breuer.

"It's made of only two materials, leather and steel. No more. Other designs are complicated—there's wood, leather and steel."

Calma also lauds Ludwig Mies Van De Rohe's Barcelona chair, a wide recliner with a cross frame of gently sloping steel bars, wrapped in leather. "It's structural and cantilevered," he explained. "It's a genius."

For friends, Calma acquires geometric flatware, coffee and tea pots, coffee-making machines and complete dinner sets.

For a minimalist, it is unusual that he acquired a furniture set, replete with Eames and 24-hour lobsters.

He explains that to impress his visitors, the infusion of a classic design could underscore the modernity of a setting. "It's like having a modern house with a Lena painting with a gold leaf frame," he says.

CALMA collects kitchen accessories from sushi brands as Villeroy and Boch, Tiffany and Arzberg.

Absolute art

Calma is occupied with creating outdoor sculptures for his next exhibit at the Ayala Museum. On his new works which will be presented in January, he is using cast iron, stainless steel and cast bronze. One of the most expensive works will be a piece like abstraction in cast bronze, which costs P1.7 million.

His current exhibit at the Ayala Museum has been very educational to those uninitiated about art. Students are given flyers explaining the definition of abstraction and non-representational art.

Calma's works consist of metal rolled and sculptures using steel, black iron and bronze in primary colors of black, white, red and yellow. His drawings feature dots strokes of indelible ink on white canvas. Though purist in form and color, the artworks are deceptively difficult to achieve.

Calma's "scroll" sculptures strike awe inspired by the signatures of people. "It's all about softening metal rules to make the shape," he says.

His metal which curve away the flat surface of metal is reversed his penchant for planar elements and subtle lines.

His favorite sculpture comes in the "Origami," made of fabricated steel and reconcrete paint for shine and durability. The pieces of metal are folded to create crease lines that form valleys. metal is turned in other directions to make ridges.

As a result, the sculptures look different from other angles because of the complexity of the folds.

"I am conscious about floating the sculpture. See that? It's heavy metal embedded on metal." He points to a dark piece of metal that holds up the "Origami" form the base. "You don't see the black going to the piece. The white [sculpture] is considered as in one piece."

His drawings are wonders to patient brush strokes.

"I pour indelible ink and spread it quickly because it dries right away. If not, you can't create the fine lines. I use three brushes, big and fine ones. The strokes look like brooms. If you are not fast with your strokes, you can't get the effect."

Calma points to his paintings that are suggestive of the Twin Towers, an eclipse and closed formations. He learns to to the viewer to recognize his themes.

Before retiring, Calma began making small studies. The 30 pieces of black and white renderings are then mounted down on paper blocks against the wall.

"See the shadows? That's what you're buying, the 3D effect. It's all black and white and accents of red and yellow. The artist can be something you can put at home. That's why it's decorative."

Asked how Calma creates a strong impact on his work, he replies, "If you can't put your ideas in drawing, then it can't be made," he says with a chuckle. "What we do starts in the mind."

CALMA'S "Scroll" sculpture is his trademark element

WINDING sculptural staircase with scroll banister makes a statement against grids of glass.

Plants from all over the country in Seedling Bank 'tiangge'

WITH CHRISTMAS JUST AROUND the corner, people are busy looking for gifts. Bazaars, bargain sales and *tiangge* are all over.

At Manila Seedling Bank Foundation (MSBF) Environment Center on Quezon Avenue corner Edsa, Quezon City, a *tiangge* style of selling/leasing and ornamental plants has been set up to cater to all gardeners.

In about 50 stalls in Greenhouse 3, small plant growers, nursery growers and traders from all over the Philippines sell indigenous plants.

Plants and gardening materials are the best gift ideas for people who love nature, those who have almost everything and are hard to give gifts to. Flowering and ornamental and landscape plants like orchids from Davao, Pampanga and Cebu; rare ferns from Quezon and Laguna, landscaping plants from Bulacan, botanicals from Rizal, and rare finds from Mindoro, Palawan and many parts of the Visayas are sold at very low prices all year round.

Also available are medicinal plants like *sambong*, aloe vera, verbena, water plants such as lotus, *saptoria* and *ranapo* and nymphea; unique plants like staghorn ferns, pitcher plants, giant ferns, terrestrials plants, black bamboo, and landscaping plants like snake, colored *n phutti*, dracaenas, xanadoos, palms, conifer's, annuls and spathiphylum.

Growers

Leading the list of growers in the Tiangge is MSBF (tel. 9241668, 9247901 9209112) are Bert Villasis of Cebu; Tiarasure's Garden of Los Baños, Laguna; Victor Lozares of Bulacan; Rosy's Garden of Caguait de Oro; Jurados Orchids from Pampanga; Mayumi Wu Orchids—the cheapest prices from Mabvar, Batangas.

Tiangge in MSBF was conceptualized by MSBF president Chris Bernal to give growers from all over a venue to sell specialty planted/sustainable prices.

Tiangge in MSBF is also dubbed as "Farmer's Row" which helps address the greening of the metropolis and improve the living condition and urban environment. In the MSBF Complex, shoppers can find other services in preparation for pre-Christmas clean up and repair of gardens damaged by previous typhoons.

Nature's Heart is open free to the public daily, 7 a.m.–6 p.m.

GREENHOUSE No. 3 within MSBF Compound, open from Monday-Sunday 7 a.m.-6 p.m., where various tiangge stalls are located

Youth shout out their ideas, dreams and ambitions

FINALLY, THERE'S A place where college students can talk and vote on their creations, ideas, thoughts, dreams and ambitions. Samsung aims to serve as source of the youth's passion and imagination through the exclusive youth campaign, Samsung "I Imagine."

Many students have already participated by posting their shout outs in the Samsung website: www.samsungimagine.com. They fill in the shout out "I Imagine [blank]" about talk, play and love, their thoughts instantly go out to the world. They can also vote for their favorite shout outs. Aside from being able to express themselves online, Samsung has collaborated with hip and trendy fashion brand, Folded and Hung, to create the limited edition Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies which will carry the winning "I Imagine" shout outs from each category. These will be sold in participating F&H stores and the proceeds will be donated to Samsung Hope which sends kids back to school.

Prizes for the winning entrant are P50,000 cash; Samsung Corby mobile phone, Samsung ST600 Dual SIM Camera, Samsung CLP-315 printer, Samsung LaJet LD1900 monitor, five Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies to keep or give away; and P10,000 worth of gift certificates in F&H stores. The winners' schools will each receive a Samsung LED monitor. There will also be an online table for all shout outs entrants and voters. Five hundred Samsung "I Imagine" hoodies, 20 Samsung phones and 20 Samsung GH3 players are up for grabs.

In its bid to air the voice of the youth, Samsung rounded up some of the coolest students and asked them their thoughts and take on things. Sharing their "I Imagine" shout outs about technology, globalization, environmental awareness and education and a little about themselves are Glaiza Medina, Eric Torrejon, Jessica and Simon.

Jessica Mendoza

Age: 25
School: Ateneo de Manila University
Hobbies: Reading, writing, and music
"I imagine that the city of my dreams is within my reach."
The song that captures my life right now ...
AM ONE'S "Take me as I am." It speaks a lot about overcoming the fear of stepping out of the box, about having the courage to take your destiny into your own hands. I think it applies to all people (including mine!) who are trying to go for their goals without forcing themselves and their values in the process.
The book that inspired me most ...
"Nowhere" by Neil Gaiman. I've always thought that Neil Gaiman is a person who writes really well. He's concise and makes you imagine what he is describing as you are reading. The story itself has a seriously really like-changing dilemma that you have to make.
The thing that I am most grateful for ...
My friends and family. Cheesy but I don't think I could get anywhere without their support.

Marc Canabay

Age: 24
School: Southeast Asian College
Hobbies: Basketball, swimming, reading the mid
"I imagine technology to have no borders."
How do you imagine yourself after college?
I imagine myself working and fulfilling my dreams, slowly but surely.
I cannot survive without ...
My friends, cellphone, the Internet and of course, my family.
The one thing I want to do but have not done ...
Would be to say this.

Erin Torrejon

Age: 19
School: De La Salle University-Manila
Hobbies: Watching movies, hanging out with friends, going to the beach and out-of-town trips
"I imagine everyone helping out to restore our forests and the marine life."
How do you imagine yourself after college?
First, I want to travel with friends and family. I also want to work in the field of media, maybe someone behind the scenes like in a magazine or in a show, creating concepts and coming up with ideas that work.
The places I want to go to ...
Brazil. Everyone there seems so carefree. I find their culture very interesting. It's exotic—not the usual traveler's destination.
I've learned over Dad ...
to anything that I do I should work hard at it but at the same time take it to and enjoy the ride.

Simon Atkins

Age: 21
School: De La Salle University-Manila
Hobbies: Basketball, playing computer games and watching DVDs.
I don't have time to go out so when I go home, I just really want to rest.
"I imagine everyone valuing education because it is really the only asset that you can have."
I cannot survive without ...
My phone. It happened to me once and all throughout the day, it feels like something's wrong and relaxing. Everything is meaningless sadly when your text is loaded with someone. You end up asking someone to text the person for you.
The food that makes my mouth water ...
Mozzarella sticks. I like melted cheese!
Something that not a lot of people know about me ...
Sometimes when it comes to movies, I cry.

Melissa Gohing

Age: 18
School: De La Salle University-Manila
Hobbies: Volleyball, singing, dancing, trekking
"I imagine we can be one with the world."
The song that captures my life right now ...
Breakaway by Kelly Clarkson.... When I'm sad, I always listen to the songs and silhouettes, I feel better.
The one thing I want to do but have not done ...
I want to go around the world. I'm an outgoing person and I like to go somewhere.
The food that makes my mouth water ...
Chocolate! It's my comfort food.

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Search for Miss Little Confetti launched

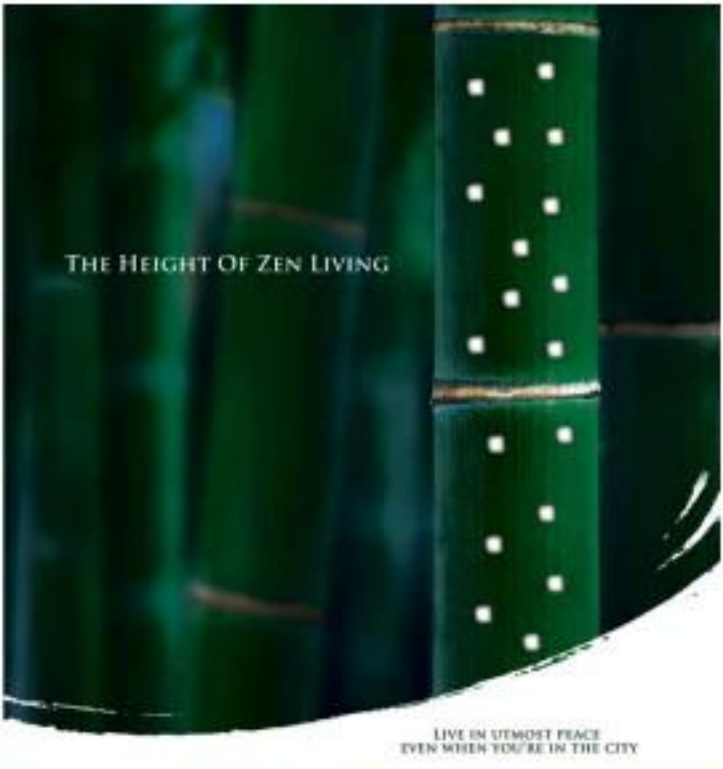
LITTLE CONFETTI RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS MISS Little Confetti 2006. The contest is open to all girls ages 4-7. The search is closed Feb. 28, 2006, the last day for submitting entry forms. The grand pageant will be at the Glorietta Lullaby Center in Makati City on March 25, 2006.

Over P1 million in cash, gift certificates, modeling contracts and insurance policies await the winners and their mothers. The grand prize for the winning princess: P100,000 cash; one-year Natasha catalogue modeling contract worth P24,000; clothes and accessories worth P20,000 from Bubelicious; theme and accident insurance worth P1.5 million; and a medical health plan from InterMedic.

For the mother of the winning princess are prizes such as P30,000 in clothes (including an outfit from Renee Salud's next season); P10,000 in beauty and personal care products—also from Renee Salud's next season; P10,000 in beauty and personal care products—also from Natasha—plus a gift certificate from The Optical Shop.

Prizes for each of the three runners-up: P50,000 cash; P15,000 one-year Maximo Dive Exchanges MSEL, a leading direct selling company; catalogue modeling contract; clothes and accessories worth P15,000 from MSE Boulevard accident insurance worth P100,000 and a medical health plan from InterMedic.

The winning candidate will also receive Sanrio Bank Junior 1 account, and savings accounts from Planters Bank. For details, see posters and print ads or log on to www.confetti.com.ph.



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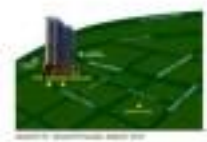

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Metrobank

How to make the most of limited budgets

THESE ARE HARD TO CONSUMERS HAVE to be more selective and thoughtful in making their post-Yuletide purchases.

We asked the Consumer Specialist here to offer some advice on how consumers can get the most out of what we expect will be limited budgets this Christmas and New Year.

Here are some suggestions from the expert:

The Consumer

Linda B. Bolido

■ Be an informed shopper. Do comparative price checks of established stores that are accessible to you. Read advertisements, circulars, flyers and signage to find the best buys at home or promotion.

■ Shop in reputable establishments to be assured of value for money. A low price does not necessarily mean a good bargain. (Take Christmas lights, for instance. You can probably get two or three strands in Divisoria for the price of one set in the mall. But will those lights be safe? Will they at least last until the end of the Christmas season? Sometimes the price difference is not simply a matter of location, i.e. same set cheaper in Divisoria compared to malls. The price difference may be owing to the fact that the Christmas lights you buy in the mall will have the safety seal of the Department of Trade and Industry.) You may be paying a higher price because you are getting better quality goods. The higher price could also mean better customer service, more comfortable and convenient shopping, and add-ons like warranty. (Some establishments will even offer to take care of sending your purchase to the service center to save you the trouble of going there yourself, that is if the store is more accessible to you.)

■ Have grocery trips to save on gas or transportation costs. You may save a few pesos by shopping in a cheaper establishment but it may cost more to get there so you may not save much after all. (Personally, I prefer to shop in places where I have more space to just walk around and make my selections leisurely, instead of fighting off schools of people many of whom are really only mixing up an age of the huge crowds to pick other people's pockets or purses.)

■ Try a store's in-house/private label brands. Establishments try to make the quality of their own labels comparable to leading brands while prices are about 20 percent lower. The products are cheaper because there are no advertising, distribution and branding expenses. In Europe, about 40 percent of supermarket sales already come from private labels.

■ Join a store's loyalty program. Shoemart's Price Card, for instance, entitles shoppers to a one percent rebate on what they spend, with double points every first Wednesday of the month. Once earned, points multiply points earned from purchases five or ten times.

■ Buy in bulk or in bigger size items that are used regularly like cooking oil, condiments, laundry soap, etc. But make sure the bigger packages are economical and not cause bigger packages do not really mean a significant saving and may even be uneconomical if the product is perishable). Review the average shelf life of the products you buy. Do shelf space you have at home, and the use of each product. Does offer or how much of it you will use to help you decide what's best to buy in retail wattage. Non-regular items are better bought in small quantities. Fresh produce and dairy products should be bought when needed due to their limited shelf-lives.

Wet vs. super market

Shoppers say there are advantages to going to the supermarket rather than the palengke:

■ Supermarkets offer a wider range of products compared to wet markets.

■ While prices in supermarkets may be slightly higher, you are assured of your products and quality of the products. Supermarkets are also more comfortable as they are air-conditioned.

■ Almost everything you need can be found in supermarkets.

■ By shopping for fresh produce in the morning, you can get items as fresh as the ones you buy in wet markets.

Send letters to The Consumer Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5/F Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makati Ave. Extn., Makati City, 1209 (fax: 896-6214); or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

HOLIDAY bouquets in earthy colors/tomatoes a garland

A brown/gold Christmas

By Aaron Barreto

HOLIDAY BOUQUETS AND wreaths in browns, earthy colors? Why not?

While brown is not a customary Christmas hue, it works well with rich colors glittery sources might like copper and gold. Here are examples of Christmas decor for the home that are a bit different—predominantly brown, but combined with russet, gold and copper, opulent tones that allude to elements of abundance and splendor.

The color works well with copper and gold

Channeling Gauguin in a chair

Recycling materials, master craftsman reinvents furniture

By Linda B. Bolido

FOR MANY CLOSERS, A CHAIR does not have to be just a chair, a piece of furniture valued primarily for its function and often unnoticed until someone actually has a need for it.

The Lucban-based master craftsman, who has acquired a loyal clientele for his innovative products particularly his colorful and highly distinctive pillows of all sizes and shapes, has applied his prodigious talent and energy to the production of chairs that are design statements in themselves.

Using items that are found, salvaged or that other people no longer have any use for, Gloriano crafts pieces of furniture that will add color and drama to any home or office. Deliberately or not, his recycles, reuses and refashions, often using colors that evoke memories of the work of Paul Gauguin, the French painter who put into canvas the vibrant colors of the tropics.

The finished product is not simply the usual rendering of a chair. It can draw its design from the material used... wood, metal or wicker—and the fabric available. What people usually call the peacock chair soon becomes a real coco chair—yards of fabric are shaped into several layers of "petals" for the backrest. A shiny, round silver container that could otherwise be put into service as a candy or nuts bowl brings together the folds at the center.

Pairs of colorful tropical parrots form the backrest of two other pieces. One "bird" wears a fashionable pearl necklace to identify her as the female of the pair.

In lieu of new upholstery, Gloriano drapes a wide piece of cloth with the distinctive African colors over an old sofa, hiding the threadbare chairs beneath.

A French bunk bed does double duty as a sofa sofa and, of course, a place for sleeping. Scattered throw pillows and bright rugs give it the appearance of a very colorful nest for three to four people. The pillows and rugs can remain or disappear when the furniture is needed as a bed.

Repro or custom-made

Clients can have either Gloriano's existing designs reproduced or have their own custom-made chair, day bed or dining set. A chair that costs P13,000 to P25,000, depending on how intricate the design is, will take one month to finish, with everything hand-made by the craftsman's workers in Lucban, Quezon. A dining set for six to eight people, priced at about P35,000, may take at least two months to make. The price for a day bed ranges from P20,000 to P25,000.

Gloriano uses wood like banuyong, narra, marang, lumay-dumoy, bakuweste, anonang and langka, metal or wicker for his limited editions. (silver vase of a kind) home accessories. A day bed in the master's bedroom in Gloriano's home in Lucban is made of a tree known as makaasim, an all-weather hardwood that has to be buried for at least four years, after it is cut, to soften it and make it more pliable.

Some of Gloriano's humorous and unusual designs may be viewed every Sunday at the Legazpi Village terrace on corner Jamboree and Salcedo Sts. Parkland (the sales division of Management), Makati City. His catalogue of products is also available.

Gloriano may be reached at (042) 3408411 or (0920) 5766122.

A PAIR of parrots (the "female" wears a choker) perched on a rattan chair

CANOPIED bed

HIGH-BACKED "body" chair

GLORIOSO'S workers carved this wall décor from recycled wood.

ANTIQUE French bed becomes a sofa with brightly colored throw pillows

OLD SOFA that needs new upholstery is revitalized with an African print cover.

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BLESSED, gold and copper decors in abundance and splendor.

A brown/gold . . .

From page D1

Materials:

- Ribbons in shades of brown, gold and russet
- Velvet berries
- Gold and copper balls (matte and shiny), in clusters
- Gilded fern sprays
- Gold branches dusted with glitter and sprinkles

Use natural elements like twigs, branches and berries, and apply holiday flavor by dusting the branches with glitter, applying gold leaf to fern fronds, and covering the berries in rich velvet fabric.

In a home where rustic, bright and creamy are prevalent, the earthy and rich tones of browns and russets will work well, with the existing neutral shades, while the glint of the golds and copper add to the holiday sparkle.

ARLENE DE

TOPSILBY, gold ornaments create

DOOR FRAME DECOR

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New TV technology helps save energy

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The incorporation of Saturn-light as part of TCLs Health System Integration enhances the gradation and contrast in image quality of flat panel TVs via the Dynamic Contrast Control feature. Viewers are treated to crisp visual images as it automatically changes the contrast to suit each type of motion and light. By helping convert the harmful light emitted from the screen to circular polarized light—which is closer to natural light in terms of most physical properties...TV watching becomes more comfortable for the eyes.

TCLs energy saving technology dramatically adjusts backlight according to picture content, while saving energy up to 50 percent, thus, continuous TV watching becomes cost-effective. "The technology resolves high energy consumption by plasma screens that lack hearing quality and have to rely on backlighting as it luminates," said Andy Chen, CEO of TCL Sat, Inc., local manufacturer and distributor of TCL television.

A brown/gold Christmas From page D1

DUST natural elements like ferns, branches and berries with glitter.

GOLD and copper add to the holiday sparkle.

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LIFESTYLE Parenting

How to raise kinder, more caring children

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Guballa

CNN Hero of the Year inspires altruism. Parents must genuinely walk their talk

IT'S BEEN A GREAT MONTH TO BE Filipino.

I was in San Francisco last week when Manny Pacquiao showed true grit and the unshakable Pinoy spirit, making me so proud to be Pinoy.

A few days after I got home, Efren Peñaflorida, Jr. is declared CNN Hero of the Year. Peñaflorida and Pacquiao's victories show us how resilient we are as a people—how we are able to triumph against adversity even, when early in life, the odds seem completely against us.

Peñaflorida had been bullied as a young man in high school, to an impoverished area where, in order to survive, one had to join a gang or die. This young man opted to take the road less taken and, in doing so, helped uplift the lives of 10,000 young men and women who became members of his organization.

In the process, they have taught literacy to 1,500 street children and continue to run a program on proper hygiene. Peñaflorida's work, using his own resources and undoubted in the local media, was a form of helping without counting the cost.

Natural quality

I wonder what kind of parents Peñaflorida had? Pacquiao has Kuya Dionisia, but who were Peñaflorida's role models, if he had any? Perhaps he took inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi...."Be the change you wish to see in the world"—for in his acceptance speech on the awarding ceremonies he said, "The best is you're waiting to be unleashed... You are the change that you dream as I am the change that I dream, and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be."

Studies have shown that altruism, which Peñaflorida seems to have in abundance, comes naturally to young children.

In a November 2008 lecture at Stanford University, Michael Tomasello, co-director of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, delivering the 2008 Tanner Lectures in Human Values, said: "From where they first begin to walk and talk and become truly cultural beings, young human children are naturally cooperative and helpful in many—though obviously not all—situations. They do not get this from adults; it comes naturally."

Tomasello added that, as they grow older, children's spirit of cooperation is shaped by how they judge their surroundings and perceive what others think of them.

"They become more aware of what's around them, and worry more about what it's like and what it means to be a member of a group. They learn to be selective about whom to help, inform and share with, and they also learn to manage the impression they are making on others—their public reputation and self—as a way of influencing the actions of those others toward themselves."

A December 2006 article called "Helping Kids Care" in the "Monitor on Psychology" publication also said parents also play an important role in teaching or role-modeling altruism to their children.

Role-modeling

E. Gil Clary, PhD, a psychology professor at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., wondered why some volunteers at a telephone crisis counseling center quit well before the six months they had committed to were up. To find out, he and a colleague asked volunteers about their relationships with their parents and other socialization influences.

The researchers reported that volunteers who fulfilled their commitments had parents who modeled helpfulness. They also had good relationships with their parents. The quitters had parents who hadn't modeled helpfulness, and they had poor relationships with them.

"Kids tend to look at what parents do, not what they say," explains Clary. "And kids are more likely to pay attention to a model if they have a good relationship with their parents."

Whether your child has an inherent sense of altruism as Tomasello proposed in his Stanford lecture, there are a few things that parents can do to help raise kinder, more caring and, yes, altruistic children.

As in anything else, it begins with having a good and solid relationship with them, something that needs to begin in the earliest years, thus providing them with opportunities to show and practice altruism in action.

Tips and ideas

In other words, parents must genuinely walk their talk. Here are some ideas to help foster altruism in children:

• Pick a project within your community to lend help to whatever way you can. The relief efforts conducted during the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in October provided many teachable moments for parents to role-model altruism.

• Unload and pass it on. Some of us have way too many books, toys, clothes that just gather dust or litter the confines of our homes. Most of these are still in very good condition and can be reused. Why not gather them and bring them to a daycare center, public school library or shelter? Again, involve the kids in sorting those items out and bring them where they will be put to good use.

• Take time to share success stories such as Peñaflorida's victory, so much kids about good examples of resiliency and altruism. Find other stories on the web where you can get clear-cut help your community.

The true-blue hero is one whose only desire is, as Peñaflorida said, "brave, never recall, serve others above yourself and be happy to serve."

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

PLDT EXECUTIVES in ballerina-for-the-a-point-of-my-life, along with guest Imee Marcos (second from left): PLDT-SMB Mobile marketing head Ariel Abaya, PLDT chairman Manny Pangilinan, PLDT-SMART Foundation president Butch Meily and PLDT-SMB Maker vice president and head Kat Luna Abadiano

PLDT CEO Napoleon Nazareno and Senior Vice President Eric S. Alberto

HOSTS Joey Mead and PLDT-SMART Foundation president Butch Meily

PLDT-SMB Maker product manager Christian Lim, PLDT-SMB Maker business area sales head Carla Takeuna, Anthony Fernandez and PLDT-SMB Maker community consultant Mark Levine

WICKED Kevin had a great time enjoying the Halloween party. Also Santiallo of Beatbeats, PLDT's Joe Santiallo and Titanic Enterprises' Wadsworth Uy

PRINCESS Hidago in an image Francis Libiran gown

GLAMOUR EMBODIED: PLDT-SMB Maker's community consultant Yanni Rono and makeup artist Basil Pugo.

SCYMMAR jokes, who bagged the trending beauty award of the night, with Make Up Forever marketing manager Donna Redrado

Promo on broadband Internet access for entrepreneurs launched

ONE OF THE HOTTEST NAMES IN the world of high-power conglomerate PLDT-SMB Nation Unlimited me now's been happening into a grand launch of its "unlimited to life." PLDT and SM.

More than a thousand visitors filled up the

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alexis Von Wagner using **VKL** Photo Solutions

Texan rise president and head, cyber smart owner of miniature Kat Luna Abadiano.

The grand highlight of the night was the plugging of a larger than life model of this incredible PLDT-SMB. But by no less than PLDT brilliant chairman and genius, Manny V. Pangilinan and PLDT sharp and mega smart president and Texan CEO Napoleon Nazareno.

Cynthia Abella and Film Society of the Philippines (FSAP) president, eye-catching photoscreat woman of substance Imee Marcos, honored me the awards.

And the best news to entrepreneurs can get up to five free computers when they avail of PLDT myDSL Bis [call 361-4000, www.pldtmydsl.com.ph].

"These desktops and laptops can be used by SMEs to automate their business and save more than enough the high speed of myDSL Bis."

Timezone shares fun with kids

Lunar it to the bustling gaming and recreational center Timezone, with no less than executive Annabelle Rama, to host a fun-filled day for orphaned kids from the House of Refuge Foundation, primarily, which was badly affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Marikina.

Timezone prepared exciting activities in its Bonifacio High Street branch, letting the kids have a blast with unlimited play of Timezone's popular games like basketball, air hockey shooting and driving machines, followed by sumptuous meals from Texas Roadhouse Grill, while sweet servings were given by Krispy Kreme, which was really a heaven-by-trip for the kids, siblings, and the rest of beautiful celebrities and their children.

His wonder Timezone is so blessed. They endlessly share their blessings by re-searching fulfillment to those in need, pahanggan.

Leisure & Allied Industries Phils., Inc. (Timezone) is a joint undertaking between Ayala Land Inc. and the Australian based Leisure and Allied Industries.

Tesda's tribute to success

World-renowned and gorgeously renowned Dusit Thani Manila (DUSITtani.com), led by Mr. Chareon Sanoolil, general manager Tessa Kumar, gathered chosen friends for an evening of awesome double celebrations. It marked Tessa Kumar's Italian wife receiving the Award of Excellence and two-time first Citylloyd to Manila recognized given by the prestigious annual TDC Travel Awards held in Bangkok Centre, Bangkok, Thailand.

Welcoming to wine GM Prakash and director of food and beverage Gilbert Uy. Tessa's Award of Excellence was given by the Wine Spectator's Restaurant Wine List Awards, to this.

An endless flow of wine was served by top notch/notable suppliers, paired with delectable European-Italian cuisine cocktails served by executive chef Armin Brandt-ner.

Lucky raffle winners bucks first hand experience of the hotel's exciting new line of activities.

Beer and wine challenge

It was definitely a first for our town with the super happening during the Beer and Wine challenge, held at Nuvo Bar in Greenbelt 3. Beer and Wine Tree a Tree was the idea brainchild of host Cabarrus of Wanabe Beer Nuvo Restaurant Brewery" and co-organizer Ben Asmeria of Global Beer Exchange, collaborating with events and PR lady Eddie Jones-Garcia and the new dashing chef par excellence Stephanie Zobel de Ayala of Modern Epicurean Kitchen.

The variety of beers that I never even knew existed, like the awesome Belvenoir Gordon Finnish (stout) and excellent wine were carefully paired with an extravagant assortment of delectable delicacies. Each course served refreshing beer or wine best matched the dish. It was a diplomatic tie between both. Yes, siblings, it's time for us to be more adventurous with our pairings. Forget the rules.

Check out your invites soon as the same beer, pahanggan Beloise me, it's worth your time. Proudly sponsored by Global Beer Exchange, BGE Industries, Dream FM and Real Magazine.

Great Christmas bazaar

We have the biggest bazaar south of Manila for the benefit of the St. James Foundation—the Great Christmas Bazaar. Now on its 18th year, it will be held for four days with free entrance on Nov. 27-30, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Carmen Community Center and St. James Parking Lot, Ayala Alabang Village, pahanggan.

It is the biggest with 600 booths to choose from.

"The ready bird catches the worm," as the

RALPH Lim Joseph of Ralph's Wines and Spirits, Dusit Thani's Tessa restaurant manager Kamala Ekawar and sales manager Jean Nieto with Sirijong Phongpaibu, president and CEO-PTT

ROYAL Thai Embassy's second secretary Pensiri Chaiwat and Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission Chaiwin Sachiru, Prateek Kumar, GM of Dusit Thani Manila, Prish Phongpaibu, SVP and branch manager of Bangkok Bank-Ortigas Tessa Thongram, banquet sales manager of Dusit Thani Manila

DUSIT Thani Manila's director of food and beverage Gilbert Uy; assistant director of Marketing Communications Cory Arcilla; Krissa Zapanta of Manila Bulletin; Marissa Go; Danella Palang of public relations; and Prateek Kumar, the hotel's popular, well-respected general manager

ROMEO Lim and husband, Marriott Vice of SM Hotels

MRS Celeonia and Audrey Carpio

EVENTS and Philady Eddie Jones-Garcia with me, Modern Epicurean Kitchen's Stephanie Zobel, Pepper Barkshaker and Nicol Ocuto

OLGA Gonzales, chairperson Mimi Roberts, co-chairperson Nikki Roberts and Thang Montinola (back) Father Han Thomas and Ninja Perez

ALLEGIANCE Penny Rubio, Bernice Abi Singlo and Sergio Randall

STEPHEN Monod, Jonathan Crespi, Kris Lorson and Audrey Carpio

RICHARD Gutierrez, Cristine Reyes and Bella Gutierrez's daughters Persia and Lorin pose with two girls from the House of Refuge Foundation.

KIDS currently playing at Timezone, accompanied by coordinators from the House of Refuge Foundation headed by Annabelle Rama and guest celebrity Bubbles Paraiso

ERRATUM

The scrumptious wedding cake served at Mar and Karina Rosa' wedding reception at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel was by the talented Maria Sinan and not by Marvin Yulo as I reported. Sorry about that, pahanggan.

CELEBRITY guest Michelle Madrigal had a blast playing with the kids.

Girls play Jo Healey with celebrity guest Bea Madrigal watches over her

HOT SHOTS A Timezone video game with celebrity guest TJ Trinidad.

CARLA Humphrey readies a kid beer to play one of Timezone's games.

ON PRISCILLA: black sequin top, Red Herring pants; On Lindi: sequin top from Butterfly by Matthew Williamson, lace petal skirt from Red Herring; On Holden: black top from Ellen Zoe and pants from Jasper Conran; On Gino: button-down from Thomas Nash

Gifts for little ones

DEBENHAMS HAS GIFTS FOR the little ones.

For boys, St. George by Duffer and J Junior by Jasper Conran offer a fresh fashion twist to classic pieces from boy's must-have as mass-hues plaid shirts and distressed denim.

Dress your little princesses in a Butterfly by Matthew Williamson and Red Herring ensemble for a chic and glamorous look, fit for any budding fashionista.

From cool graphic tees and hoodies/jackets for the boys to luxurious cardigans and tutu skirts for the girls, newest in-house brand BlueZoo has adorable styles perfect for any holiday event.

Red Herring Accessories features an adorable collection of sparkling key rings and compact mirrors fit for the perfect of girls. Gift your mom, sister, or the special woman in your life with the Daisyspot at Debenhams, home pieces or charms.

ON HOLDEN: top from Jasper Conran, St. George jeans; On Lindi: black and pink gingham ruffle dress from Red Herring

AROMA HOME bear; Red Herring lips compact and key ring; Aroma Home fairy friend toy; M&A compact mirror, glasses case and ring

Everyday essentials such as comfy pajama sets and bedroom slippers from Penguin or colorful scarves from Red Herring are absolutely delightful gifts any woman will enjoy.

Blankies fit cute and sleeping bags are a hit for newborns while toddlers can cuddle around in style with BlueZoo's adorable collection of play sets.

Decorative accessories from Debenhams' designer home collection will definitely add sparkle to any home. Give room a face by Alice Macdonald glass vase.

Think are also to get soft towels in a wide array of colors from bright pink to earthy beige.

Debenhams is located at the 3/L of Shangri-la Plaza Mall and at the 3/L of Trinoma's Mehan, Glorietta 4 Also visit Debenhams' newest branch at the 2/L of Trilumina.

BLUEZOO Baby soft fleece set, long sleeved T-shirt, monkey and striped tights; baby hat and mitt set from Ben; Bear sleeping bag; Oati ring in a box

BLUEZOO Baby "Phantom Rocks" long sleeved T-shirt, cotton/jersey dress,Mini Rocks ruffle sleep suit; spot sleeping bag

ON PRISCILLA: leopard print asymmetric dress from Stizi by Julien Macdonald; On Lindi: gingham crop by Red Herring; On Gino: grey zip-up jacket from St. George by Duffer; On Holden: jungle tag from Jasper Conran and pants from St. George by Duffer

AYALA Malls VP Pilarita Fernandez and Ayala Malls VP and COO Ramona Tuvera(far left) with Bantay Kalikasan representatives (from left to right) Eric Pangalinan and Rod Mustiga, resource mobilization officers, and Sherwin Mirla, senior resource mobilization officer

VICTOR John Ed Pastor, executive assistant to the executive director, and Gus Magsaysay, executive director of Children's Hour

Green Yuletide at the mall

THIS SEASON, AYALA Malls continues to take an active role in fostering a sustainable lifestyle among consumers. Its recent Greenology campaign offered environ-friendly efforts and projects that promoted awareness for the preservation of Mother Earth while at the same time helping surrounding communities.

In the recent launch of Greenfest Christmas festivities held at Glorietta 4 Park, the festival proceeds of the previous Eco Oasis event held last September were turned over to Bantay Kalikasan and Children's Hour, In addition, a fraction of the proceeds from the Eco Bag sales was also earmarked to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The festivities began with a Gschestic Mass attended by Ayala Malls representatives, merchants and employees. Kids from the Children's Hour were feasted to a fulfilled day of games at Timezone and snacks provided by McDonalds. Guests of all ages then enjoyed a night of music with Regine Velasquez accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

JOSE Ma. Lorenzo Tan, vice chairman and CEO for NWD Phils

REGINE Velasquez serenades the crowd, accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

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Ateneo band performs today at Cagayan de Oro university

THE ATENEO DE ZAMBOANGA University Concert Band performs today, 7:30 p.m., at Rodolfo Hall, University de Cagayan de Oro-City.

Founded in 1952 and reorganized in 1992, it is now on a self-motivated pursuit of professor Apolonio G. Enriquez. The band has won the Zamboanga Brass Band competition thrice—in 2004, 2005 and 2006—winning over nine Our military bands like the Marine and PNP Bands.

The concert tour (*call the Office of Cultural and Public Affairs at Ateneo de Cagayan University at 88-856405 local 109 and 249, e-mail rodolfo.fuller@ateneo.edu*) celebrates the 150 years of the return of the Jesuits to the Philippines and 100 years of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University from 1912-2012.

For the Rodolfo Hall concert, reserved tickets are at P100 while regular tickets are at P200.

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Samsung Unveils New Consumer and Enterprise Printers Designed to Deliver Greater Productivity and Ease-of-use

- New devices provide fast printing of Internet content to meet evolving printing needs

- Company aims to expand regional market share and consolidate position as top three brand

Samsung Electronics recently showcased 13 new printers and printing solutions designed to refine the printing experience with step improvements that enhance productivity. Having grown steadily to become a top three brand in the regional laser printer market, the company aims to further expand its market share in the consumer and enterprise segments by demonstrating value in maximizing users' return on investment.

"Samsung has succeeded in the competitive market by constantly assessing and researching end-users' printing habits and needs. We seek to provide products and services that match and exceed consumers' and businesses' needs and this has enabled us to create best-in-class printing innovations in design and technology through the years. Our new line-up is another step in this direction and we are confident it will drive further success for the company," said Mr. Hye-sung Ha, Vice President, Strategic Marketing Team, Digital Printing Division, Digital Media & Communications Business, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

Consumer research showed that printing content from the Internet has risen quickly to comprise the second most common use for printers. Leveraging this insight, Samsung developed innovative features in the new printers that help save time and minimize toner and paper wastage. These include a one-touch Print Screen function that allows users to easily print on-screen content without the usual page format challenges encountered in using traditional printers, a fax forward-to-PC feature which cuts down on unnecessary printing of fax copies, and an AnyWeb Print feature that enables users to copy select online content and paste it on a scrapbook template for sharing or printing.

Globally, the printing business has been earmarked as one of Samsung key growth engines. Despite the recession, Samsung has bucked the industry trend and is showing strong growth while established competitors are seeing sharp declines. The company reported a year-on-year increase in market share of 5.4 per cent for the Asian region in the second quarter of 2009. In Southeast Asia and Oceania, it leads the colour multi-functional printer segment, and is also the overall market leader in Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

According to IDC's Singapore market figures, Samsung has, for the first time, achieved local leadership with 34 per cent of addressable market share by volume in the second quarter of this year. In a year where most brands experienced declines, Samsung saw a year-on-year increase in addressable market share by 3 per cent by volume and 4 per cent by amount. The Colour Laser Best Printer product segment was the best performing product segment with a commanding lead of 47 per cent by volume.

Mr. Hye-sung Ha, Vice President, Strategic Marketing Team, Digital Printing Division, Digital Media & Communications Business, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.

HIS OWN PSG

If there are Team Jaime Tolentino being asked to reactivate the nonexistent Presidential Security Group in his office, there are also special outfits for the Partner's own security men, with a blast-inducing acronym.

Story on Page H4

TV5 buzz spurs loyalty checks

By Gaynel San Diego Jr.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—FOR THE past few months, there have been more than TV5, under new management led by Manny V. Pangilinan's MediaQuest, has been offering stars (and several TV executives) lucrative deals to help the fledgling network move up in the ratings game.

Bobby Summers, TV5 executive vice president and chief operating officer, said he had heard talks about rival channels conducting "loyalty checks."

"This only means the competition is now taking us seriously, especially since we are now part of a bigger family," Summers told bayanihan Bicutenanters during TV5's media event at the 21st Advertising Congress on Friday.

The biggest buzz is that Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, with fellow "Eat Bulaga!" host Ryan Agoncillo, will move to TV5. (Sotto, De Leon and Agoncillo host shows for TV5. "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" for Sotto; "Show Mall" for De Leon; and "Tawanang Pinoy" for Agoncillo.)

Not true

There's even talk that sometime top-liner "Eat Bulaga!" is being lured away from GMA 7 by TV5.

GMA's contract with "Eat Bulaga!"

TO PAGE H4

DID YOU KNOW...

John Travolta resurfaces

OCALA, FLORIDA—John Travolta and his family made their first public appearance in their adopted Florida hometown since the death of his 14-year-old son Jett, helping relax thousands of dollars for charity at a screening of the actor's new comedy on Friday night.

Travolta, with Kelly Preston and daughter Ella Bleu greeted fans for a movie premiere of Disney's "Old Dogs," which opens Wednesday in the United States.

"We know we are loved," he said. "We love you, Ocala." AP

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STA. ROSA | LIPA

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DASMARIÑAS | STARMILLS

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1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
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1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
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3 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON
4 LIAR LIARING CITIZEN
5 2012
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1 A CHRISTMAS CAROL
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5 2012
6 500 DAYS OF SUMMER

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4 TWILIGHT SAGA: NEW MOON

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MOVIEWORLD citi

TV5 buzz spurs...

Front page G2

produce, Tape Inc., said next month but has just been renewed for three more years starting 2010.

Reverse denies the rumor. "Even though some of their shows are doing shows with us ... It doesn't necessarily follow that the entire show is moving to our channel."

The premiere of Sotto and Agassilo in TV5's event at the Subic Bay Convention Center further fueled speculations. Though it's a rumor, the two co-stared documentary from "Tali Bidlap" to join the TV5 team at the congress.

Dr. Lucio was supposed to make Boots, but had to stay in Manila for the coronation program, related Agassilo.

"It was important for Vic and Ryan to be there because they host one flagship shows," Reverse explained.

Another for Ryan

Still, there is no truth to the rumor that Agassilo was pressured to sign an exclusive deal with ABS-CBN and quit from "Eat Bulaga" and "Showtime Pinoy," according to Agassilo and his manager Reverse.

"It's also not true that Geneva and Gwiff were fired because Ryan joined 'Eat Bulaga,'" said Perez. "In fact, it had already been extended to its third season. ABS-CBN is also planning a game show for him."

It may not be accurate, but talk of "loyalty checks" and "undue pressure on talents" gives Reverse pause. "I hope it's not true. There must just sound to make a living. We are just creating more jobs ... and more options for viewers. I hope the stars will not be caught in a bind because of the network war."

But is Boxing Vic jumping over to TV5?

Reverse insisted: "We love Vic. He's a good guy. We enjoy working with him and we are trying to maintain this relationship. We are thinking of other shows for him and we value his input. In any case, he's not an exclusive contract with GMA 7."

"We are just creating more options for viewers'

Own roster

Reverse insisted that one of the new management's priorities is to build its own roster of stars so that it will not be dependent on the talent pool of other channels.

"Having our own artist roster is necessary," he said. "When started doing that with the discoveries from Talentadu. They are very much in demand. The Pinoy Dad Academy were a big hit here at the Ari Congress."

OPENING THIS WEEK

Wanted: Border

Directed by Ray Delacruz Gibraltar, stars Nicanor Rivera, Joy Lourdes Estibanez, Pobbie Bolocaust, Kristoffer Gerbacio, Raffy Tejada

Accused as an "unsung" as a child, Nicanor (Rivera) grows up to become a religious fanatic and eastern/branding house owner with strongly opinions. The big rumour in this year's Cinema One Originals, this horror-drama won Best Actress for Rivera, along with Best Director, Screenplay, Cinematography, Music and Production Design. The film was cited for being "too permanent." Exclusively to Inday Sino Pobbie sa Gallery.

Disney's A Christmas Carol

Directed by Robert Zemeckis with the voices of Jim Carrey, Colin Firth, Gary Oldman, Robin Wright Penn

Hoop screens (Carrey) is visited by ghosts of Christmases past, present and future in this arty incarnation of a Charles Dickens classic. The New York Times' AO Scott calls it "a bounded genre of shiny unsentimental entertainment." Time (Sir) Willy Hammond thinks it's a "peripheral triumph, influenced by silent cinema." Washington Post's Michael O'Sullivan says it's "a horror movie that doesn't have much of a heart."

Ninja Assassin

Directed by James McTeigue; stars Rain, Ben Miles, Naomie Harris, Shô Yone, Yuki Iwamoto, Simon Ann Fennell Dok Eko

Skilled hitman (Rain) abandons his clan and schemes to avenge the murdered friend (Yuki Iwamoto). Jessie Turner says it's shot in "impenetrable darkness ... DVD hell-inferno." Cinemaniacs.com's William Goss dismisses it as a "graphic novel adaptation with comic book pretentions." Film School Rejects' Gib Abadie complains of "inconsistencies in the story and the action, blind swiping and terrible acting." Opens Thursday.

Fantastic Mr. Fox

Directed by Wes Anderson; with the voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep, Bill Murray, Jason Schwartzman, Owen Wilson

Fox (Clooney) outsmarts the farmers who want to evict his family out of their land in this Roald Dahl story. USA Today's Claudia Puig praises its "wonderfully offbeat child's-eye-view ... attention to detail and distinctive dialogue." Los Angeles Times' Kenneth Turan notes it's "a pleasantly rambled experience ... exhilarating and flaky." New York Post's Lou Lumenick hails it as "a retro marvel that should delight today's audiences."

Paranormal Activity

Directed by Oren Peli; stars Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat, Michael Rosenth, Mark Fredrichs, Ashley Palmer, Amber Armstrong

Newlywed hauntings spook a young couple ("Perfection, Sloat who then install a video camera in the bedroom to counter of the stories). Blake Times' Charles Kaplinski notes it up as a "hear them eerie." Philadelphia Inquirer's Tirad Derbyshire differs: "unified scares ... Peli's direction is a mirror." Cleveland.com Peter Chonde F. Cyrus asks rhetorically: "Have we learned nothing from the 'Blair Witch' hoax?"

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ENTERTAINMENT

Chin-Chin and Lorna A dapping scene never overheard.

LT, Chin-Chin *not* exactly getting along

JOHN ESTRADA IS CAUGHT in the crossfire between two exstars in "Until Why Song Bose" Lorna Tolentino and Chin-Chin Gutierrez, are not too keen on working together after their "slapping scene" went overboard.

It seemed not to be more than just acting-movie deep. "I'm not taking anyone's side, though I'm closer to LT," said John. "I advised them both to be careful na lang next time. Just provide nothing because ang mga manonood ay all-time arbiter. They're both professionals naman, so even if medyo awkward sila, they have no choice, dyut that's work. Binawasan na nga'ng eksena nina Lorna sila."

I texted John: What if a serious confrontation takes place between his ex, Janice de Belen, and his fiancee, Priscilla Meirelles?

"I won't allow that to happen," he quipped. "I keep praying na dumating na ito Mr. Right si Janice, so she will grow old happy. Maybe she should do some soul-searching to find out why her relationships don't last."

Enough of the crossfire. Here for a crossfire.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Maxene and Sash Magdalena had an intimate birthday celebration party at Bugsy's Grotto. The fab sisters were both born on Nov. 21; Maxene is two years older.

Spotted were Patrick Garcia, with his date, Glaiza de Castro.

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE FIRST TIME SOMEBODY told singer-author Manuntag that he sounded like Tony Bennett, he replied that he didn't know the American music icon.

"I used to be a rock singer and had no idea who Bennett was," Manuntag told the business.

Intrigued, Manuntag started researching and found the era that Bennett belonged to as a style he would love to explore. Manuntag has since been singing jazz and standards, in the process earning him a good reputation in hotel clubs and lounges around the country and overseas.

At one point, he was reportedly the top attraction at a swanky hotel in Hong Kong, earning US$5,000/a month.

Rich and famous

Recently he was invited by the Sultan of Selangor in Malaysia to sing at the opening of a Hard Rock Cafe branch in that country.

He's a favorite at private parties for Manila's jet set. "I've become a singer for the rich and famous," Manuntag deadpanned. "I didn't plan for this [career], though it was always in the back of my mind. I was always motivated by influential people."

Close encounters

The encores has glimpsed Manuntag's talent twice at Mesa's—the first time during the club's sixth anniversary bash last year, and then at Senate Brazil's homecoming gig last August. Mesa's is owned by Brazil's son, Richard Mesa. On both occasions, Manuntag was a crowd-pleaser, not only because of his lively build and height, but also on account of a powerful voice that could easily ditch singing styles.

When he crooned the rarely heard R&B/funk classic, "Midnight," originally by the American band Slave, Manuntag was tearing and burning with rock 'n' roll energy; and when he crooned with throaty ease "I Bet a Rich Out of You" and "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," his mastery of the jazz idiom was apparent.

Now, as he gears up for his first solo gig—which he's also producing—on Nov. 28 at Hard Rock Cafe in Glorietta, Ayala Center, Manuntag swears we just his loyal crowd to come and see what he's prepared. Titled

RP LOUNGE H2

CHEER FACTOR

Double win for 'Baseco'

BALUTEAN AWARD WINNER MARIO MAKI Boy" won in two film festivals: Thessaloniki in Greece and Torino in Italy. In Greece, it won Special Mention for its screenplay and subject matter. In Italy, it won the Ugetti Award because it depicted the "global problem of child labor." The award came with a cash prize of 5,000 euros and a trophy that weighs 4 kilos. It also won Special Mention in Vancouver last month.

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The song is part of a Sony Ericsson campaign dubbed "I Share Ang Saya," which supports the United Mobile Education and Child Protection Program for Street Children.

The song, written by the band Sugarfree, is available as a free download through the ongoing "I share Ang Saya" exhibits in different SM malls across the country. The exhibit runs till January 2010.

A music video of the song airs on top music channels soon.

CHEER FACTOR

Pinoy lounge...

From page B1

"Live Radio Show," the guy, he said, is a musical production that, he hopes, will transport the audience to a bygone era.

Soiree orchestra

"Lou Gorospe, veteran radio DJ, will be onstage playing himself, complete with a raucous radio booth," Monteclaro said. "He will talk about classic songs from the '50s to the '90s, which, on cue, I will perform live with an eight-piece orchestra."

Manning hosted 46 yesterday—still a tad too young to be playing around with golden oldies. But I'm a whiz he loves doing, he said, whether or not he really controls the "boxy thereof."

SIGNING autographs for fans in Malaysia

LT, Chin-Chin...

From page B1

Mata rumored hi JC Tiuseco, Iriani Magdeona, Rich Arcanicon and R Mendoza. It's Mat and Sarah's first birthday celebration their dad Frasercliff around. But he rem, like watches ever them with much pride.

(Singalong Guerrero led a gathering of the Advocates of Youth and Students for Improv Against Opio (SAY Sunday night at the Shan Cardeal, Quezon City Hall. Dingdong was tapped by Say as official spokesperson for the youth.

At the height of the dramatic lighting of torches, Say's neighbors Rita Daniela, Iggy and Jenny Cruz thanked Dong for organizing the event in support of their uncle.

Capping the evening, was a mini-concert featuring Bamboo, Michelle O Bronfman, Geoff Taylor, Pramberto Ilaw, Aljur Abrenica, Jericho Rosales and other celebs. Although Dong is now active with his work for Say's camp, he has no political intentions. For now "If I run, it'll be just ... for health reasons," he quipped.

Just like the acronym of Dong's youth group, he love expression hop- acts to "Ayos!" He usually uses that to me. Dong and I are cute mates. I call him amigo and he calls me amigo. I learn a lot from him- about our main- point of view.

I always keep in mind one of Dong's messages when I sought his advice about my significant other. He text read: "Dapat mayaya ka, edukado magkasama kayo a bitch." Now Dong will live say to his love line and his the (youth) area.

E-mail: sarong- bulanbangsit@ya- hoo.com

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KIBO MACHINE — By Hanz Abrera

HOROSCOPE

By Francis Drake

ARIES (March 21 to April 19). Unexpected gifts and money matters might come your way today. Alternatively, you suddenly might give someone a gift. What goes around comes around.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). Surprise get-together with partners or close friends will be on hand. Friends and a little different today. Something new and fascinating might come your way.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). You might receive unexpected orders or news on unexpected sales at work today. Similarly, surprisingly you get good news related to your health or even a small pet.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). A playful, surprising and good night lies ahead today. Unexpected invites from to parties. Be flexible or spontaneous when you could please one. New love can blossom.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Surprise romantic night ahead today. You might receive or high-tech for your home or a beautiful reminder. Your domestic responsibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). You're bound to meet someone who refers to old friend, renewed and probably unorthodox today. This is a pleasant day to meet a new friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). You might find romance today. You might be lucky. You might have some income. Spontaneous personal relationships with partners. You might find a new job! Your financial areas is full of surprises.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). You're excited and ready for adventure! You might be lucky. Something nice is to happen. Don't worry — it will! Either you'll meet new people or working friends will surprise you.

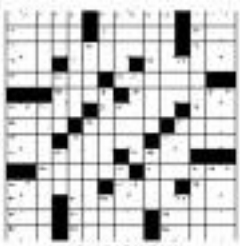
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). You feel motivated today. You want something different to happen, but you're not sure what. In one way, you're waiting for the other person to say it or make it clear somehow or the first one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). You might be surprised by the decision of a group today. In particular, there might be a change with an unsettling personal aspect or bizarre encounter with someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). A keen, patient, intuitive, or authority figure might be pressuring you. Or possibly you sense — you suppose. Then an exact love.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Grab any unexpected opportunity to travel or get familiar with. Listen or learning today. Someone might be full of opportunity will be kind, you will have to act quickly. Like crazy!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dan Heath

		7	6					
		2		3				
		3			9			
		9				7		
		1	2	5	7	9	4	
7				8				
6		4	8	9	1	3	5	2
	2							4
		5	3	2	4	6	8	

Difficulty level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

8	7	5	3	9	2	6	4	1
3	4	1	6	7	5	9	2	8
6	9	2	5	1	4	3	8	7
9	8	7	1	6	3	4	5	2
2	6	4	7	5	8	1	3	9
5	1	3	2	4	9	8	7	6
1	5	8	9	3	7	2	6	4
7	2	6	4	8	1	5	9	3
4	3	9	6	2	5	7	1	8

Philandering 101

By the Entertainment staff

A SPY OVERHEARS THIS CONVERSATION between Controversial Celebrity and Action Star:

CC nestles in Alabaster mansion of his enemy-tainted adventures. Attaché to CC not to take his Girl du Jour to five-star hotels, "where you will surely get recognized."

Consider the privacy offered by motels instead, AS counsels CC presents "What about my bodyguards?"

AS replies: "Leave them outside. Just tell them where you're finished."

That's Philandering 101.

Spitsville rumor

Senate show biz and politics just don't mix.

Talent Manager and Politician-Husband have reportedly called it quits. An insider claims that TM has found a new love.

Kapuso-ka-to-Kapuso

Since Promising Comedian never got the big break ever at the Kapuso-ligan network, the Kapuso dimmed control frame.

PCI has moved to GMA 7...many from Ricel Crisis, whose manager did everything to mold PCI's career. Who it became PCI is reluctant to BC?

Engaged!

Claire Seitz, who's making a big screen comeback as cousin Sharon Cuneta's obedient daughter in, "Mano Po 6," has found Mr. Right.

A source confirmed that she is engaged to Jojo Oconer, who works in Tony Rosette's APT Entertainment. Rosette is producer of "Eat Bulaga," where Claire's dad, Tito Sotto, is co-host.

The wedding is reportedly set next year. Ha-ha! John Lloyd Cruz's late is Jojo's gain.

Sanglard villainess

There's talk that singer-actress Regine Velasquez has agreed to play the role of iconic trailer villainess Phaye Herrera on GMA 7's "Darna," starring Marian Rivera.

Regine has donned the super-heroine costume once; this time, she will be controversial villainess Herrera.

The Phaye Herrera role was originally enjoyed by Rosanna Ortiz in the 1973 "Darna" film that starred Vilma Santos.

Fake tweet

Contrary to some Twitter posts, Rapsan Ruiz, JC de Vera is in the pink of health. It was Twisted alone that he needed a blood transfusion because of leukemia. A source close to the actor said Dr. Vera had denied the report.

"It didn't sense me on his own site," said the source. "He is currently taping for GMA 7's new Christmas mini-series starring with Susan Roces."

Take this ... revenge!

NEW YORK—Actor and heartthrob Jude Law fueled tongue at an unwanted audience peeking into his exercise routine on his New York balcony, the New York Post reported Friday Law, currently playing the lead in "Hamlet" on Broadway has continuously been giving performances of a different sort to New York University student whose residence overlooks his Manhattan digs.

RUSHES

Star-struck students swamped up against windows to watch the British actor work out with a personal trainer and joke with his son, the paper reported. A fed-up Law responded by hurling an object, the Post quotes NYU freshman Nisha Vajpeyi as saying.

"He aimed," she said, but went back for more. "For him, he hit the window. There was orange pulp on the glass for a week."

AP

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's goldmine on TV, Chos! why are we record, if we are excited:)

★Wendy Valdez, on what the hottest buzz-fest marriage is: Sharon Cuneta!

"After nerving Kuya, dion ne nga-sisi si ang reality na ang buhay. Hindi parang lang tale na ang nagbabihan ang mga duh, happily ever after na." (We could have told her that.)

★Digie Mendoza, on co-wife Michelle Van Etteveldt's wedding to Mark Bautista:

"Michelle is still the mother of my kids. Hindi is none just of our family to this same manner that, I suppose. Regine Velasquez's is just celebrity." (Operative word, "suppose"?)

★Bhabi Sharma, on reports he got a similar pregnant:

"Buwa lang ako nang mura ... ngo dahan-ngon kaka-ano ... magpakita ng ultrasound ... alam ko naman sa aarili ko na wala."

★Yasmien Kurdi, on working with JC de Vera again:

"Thawag na nama. Hihi ... nanawag na si manager akong dogumala." (Good answer.)

★JC's reaction:

"Siyempre sad ako dahil for me, work pa ... Dingin Ay, bagay magkasama dami' sili, maggo-panels, change ng ahe. Hindi na ilang mawawala yun." (Promise?)

★Jackee Hernandez, asked if rumors of boyfriend Minister Pangilinan's alleged affair with Kristia Hamilla has affected their one-night:

"Wawa nag-aaway kami ... Alobi nasa ang sakitan ng dating nag-aliyan, nasaan-saan ganoon, basta kami, hindi pa naman yung aming family." (Operative word, "naman.")

★Mark Bautista (B)'s reaction to the rumors:

"People are amazed with corporations that national honor, cultivate hate than love." (Uh.)

(Gorriti, The Buzz, Showbiz Central)

ALL'S WELL, YOU KNOW Pacman gives wife Jinkee a kiss (and flowers), then sings her a love song in the Mall of Asia event.

Stage scarier than the ring

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guico Punzalan

"SINGING IS MORE SCARY FOR me than fighting," said Manny Pacquiao, who performed in a GMA 7-show at the SM Mall of Asia on Friday to celebrate his historic victory.

Pacquiao sang five songs during the telltale program, "Pinoy Heroes Forever," for his seventh stint of beating title rules in Las Vegas on Nov. 14. He performed "Lumbalu," "Bet's For You," "Awitin Mo, Isasayaw Ko" and "Laking Pinoy," with his band Gilmedo, and a duet with "Britney's Got Talent" discovery Shaibeen Dreyna on "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." which he met her young on the US TV show, "Simply Remarkable."

At the MOA bash, Pacquiao was joined by his wife Jinkee and kids Jemuel, Michael and Princess. The youngest, 11-month-old Queen Elizabeth, slept in Gretchen Jinkee sang along with her husband, who also launched our T-shirt collection.

Pacquiao was rightly guarded by his own "SWAT" (Pacquiao Security Group), making it impossible for entertainment writers to get near him. He was whisked away right after the show.

The event was hosted by Rapsan stars Arnel Ignacio and Carla Abellana. Arnel Pineda, lead singer of Journey, dedicated "We Are the Champions" to the champ.

Jay Durias, Mercy Cornejo, Jake Mojares, Rita Lawrence, Jay-R, Jun Nieto and Rita also performed.

"SOP" talents Dayna Orosiera, Pjake Cruces, Bhoo Aplaon, Edgar Allan and Rainier Castillo were featured in a hip-hop dance number. Rich Asuncion, Mocha and Krista Mae did a provocative production number with the Mistral Dancers.

Present at the event were network execs Gilberto Duavit, Wilma Galvante and Bong Arespacochaga, Environment Secretary Lito Atienza and Deputy National Security Adviser David Shegaya.

FROM Arnel Pineda, journey front man, to Manny: "We are the champions."

JINKEE and eldest son Jemuel

MICHAEL Pacquiao

THE CHUNE with Madonna Decena (above left) and daughter Princess. At left, Carla Abellana, program emcee, gets a quick touch-up.

Neighborhood sorry to see Oprah go

CHICAGO—STEP OUTSIDE OPRAH Winfrey's Harpo Studios and into the near west side neighborhood that's been home to her television talk show for two decades, and it's easy to get a sense of what she's meant to Chicago.

"I used to live across the street from Harpo and when I moved there it was cat and cross-dressing crack addicts and Harpo. And now it's strollers and little white dogs all over," said Opal DiCosmo, whose job has been to tell the city to businessmen looking to relocate and those considering why they should stay.

Along with the upscale condominiums and pricey restaurants that replaced the rundown apartments, abandoned warehouses and vacant storefronts, Oprah is a reminder that helps explain just how serious people in Chicago are about Win. It's announcement that next season, the 25th, will be the last for "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

"Chicago's going to find out that she's a real engine in hotel rooms, flowers, limo drivers, you name it," said Joel Nickens, who owns Wishbone restaurant just down the street.

'What's this town going to come to?'

Media analysts will discuss the millions of viewers worldwide who have eagerly watched Winfrey's show. The story in Chicago will be what she's meant to Chicago.

It's a story that starts in the neighborhood that people retired jazz to save her show, and it's a story to explore the rest of the city. It's from the neighborhood that Winfrey bragged about Chicago, reminding all those who knew she could take her show just about anywhere that she wanted to be right here.

"Isn't this the most fabulous city in the world?" Winfrey yelled to more than 20,000 fans who crammed Chicago's Magnificent Mile in September for the taping of this season's premiere.

Without Winfrey, some wonder.

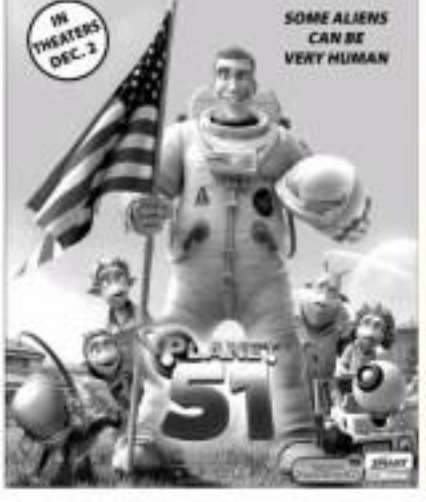
Winfrey hasn't said she's leaving Chicago, but there are indications it's possible. She is entirely expected to start up a new talk show on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, which is set to debut in January 2011.

"What's this town going to come to?" asked Ann Coddington, 40, of Hammond, Indiana, who was at Harpo Studios to see the show Friday morning. "We think of Chicago, you think of Oprah."

AP

MTRCB ▸ G GENERAL AUDIENCE ALL AGES ADMITTED

FROM the WRITER of "SHREK"

IN THEATERS DEC. 2

SOME ALIENS CAN BE VERY HUMAN